

# Online Safety

You have been brought up with this. We know you have a huge amount of expertise. But we can't keep ourselves safe if we think we've heard it all before.

**What are the risks?**

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Keeping Children Safe in Education  
2021 identifies that online safety can  
be categorised in four areas of risk.

# Content

- **content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content,
- for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism or Islamophobia, radicalisation and extremism.
- Remember that sending and storing sexual images is illegal if you are under 18 - even with consent.

# Contact

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- **contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users;
- for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes’.
- **Case study: *a few years ago there was a rise in young people buying Xanax in Salisbury, through online contacts. Xanax is very dangerous when taken without a prescription and a number of young people were hospitalised. On investigation, it was felt that the Xanax was being sold, at low cost, to find vulnerable young people who were not being safe or looking after themselves, so that they could then be groomed for sexual exploitation by the gangs controlling the sale of the drug.***

# Conduct

- **conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm;
- for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g consensual and non-consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images), online bullying, trolling

# Commerce

- **commerce:** risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams.

There has been a huge increase in all these since covid.

**What can you do?**

Inappropriate **content**, **contact** and **conduct** should all be reported to CEOP, the police safety centre. You should get in touch with the safeguarding team in college (Nicky, Louise and Rebecca) if you are worried about yourself or someone else.

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

If you feel you are at risk in the area of **commerce**, please report it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group (<https://apwg.org/>). You can also contact your bank but they are often unable to help. Or you can contact Trading Standards via the council. We can help you if needed.

The consumer watchdog Which? has a website with some current common scams - any of them look familiar?

<https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/scam-and-fraud-warning>

The Citizens Advice Bureau have a scam checking service to help you look out for warning signs - and have good advice in case you get caught out.

Take a look now - we had a number of students scammed last year and it was really upsetting for them - we all think we'll be careful but scammers know how to throw you off guard. If you have paid someone some money - you are very unlikely to get it back.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/>

# Which? makes a link between scams and mental health.

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“Being scammed can take a huge toll on your emotional well-being and mental health. It’s often helpful to speak to someone about what you’re going through. This can be anything from a one-off scam to something which entangles you for months, every scam has an impact on your life no matter its size.

Victim Support has a [free, 24/7 scam helpline](#) where you can speak to someone confidentially, available on 0808 16 89 111.”

# Child Law Advice says this about sexting:

**What is sexting?** Sexting means sending indecent images (pictures and/or videos) of yourself or others or sending sexually explicit messages.

**What does the law say?** In the UK the age of consent for sexual intercourse is 16. However, it is an offence to make, distribute, possess or show any indecent images of anyone aged under 18, even if the content was created with the consent of that young person. The law is contained in [section 1 Protection of Children Act 1978](#).

“Indecent” means, for example: naked pictures; pictures of genitals; sexual pictures in underwear. The police have said that sexting by children will primarily be considered as a safeguarding issue. The police must, by law, record all sexting incidents on their crime system but as of January 2016, they can decide not to take further action against the young person if it is not in the public interest. This will be at the discretion of the police.

**Why is there a difference in age between consenting to sexual intercourse and the sharing of sexualised images?**

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**DISCUSS!**

# Secure passwords means less chance of scams

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Check how easy your password is to crack using this tool now: <https://howsecureismypassword.net/>

Tips for secure passwords - choose 3 random words and add punctuation. Use different passwords for different sites - esp banking. You can use an algorithm - this is where you keep the same pattern with small changes. E.g WallpaperTescoBucket! And then WallpaperNationwideBucket! Etc.

**IN WHAT WAYS HAS THIS INFORMATION BEEN HELPFUL?**

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