

Online Safety News



Spring 2022 | PARENT | CARER

#Ask the Awkward

New resource from Thinkuknow for parents and carers of secondary age children

Talking regularly with your child about relationships and sex can help develop shared understanding, trust and support between you. Talk little. Talk often. Ask The Awkward.

#AskTheAwkward aims to help parents and carers have regular conversations with their children about online relationships and explores the importance of online spaces at all stages of a relationship.

The resource includes three short films created in a social experiment style with parents and their children to capture their reactions to a range of questions. A set of help sheets give essential information on nine key topics, to help parents and carers understand more about the themes raised in the films. They also provide links to further information and conversation starters on each topic.

Visit thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/ask-the-awkward

'Catfish' A person who assumes a false identity or personality on the internet, to deceive or manipulate.

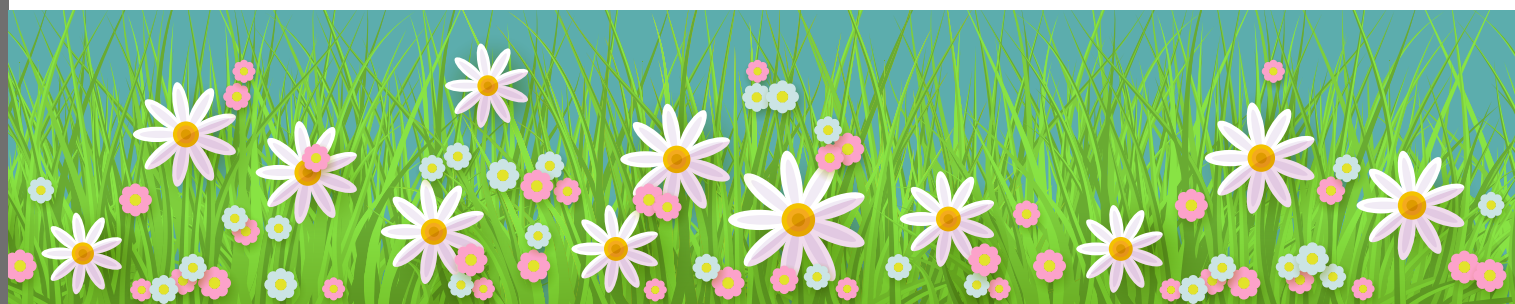
CONVERSATION STARTERS

What would tell you that you could trust someone online? What qualities would you expect to see?

How do you build trust with someone you've only met online?

How do you think it would feel to be catfished? What impact do you think this would have on someone?

What are the warning signs that someone online is lying or isn't who they say they are?



Internet matters.org

Three new resources to be aware of:

1. Online money management

As more children and young people start to spend money online through gaming and social media platforms Internet matters have created a guide to help parents and carers equip them with the skills they need to do this smartly and safely.

See internetmatters.org/resources/online-money-management-guide

2. Tackling fake news and misinformation

Get practical tips to empower your child to recognise what fake news is and how to stop the spread of it.

Visit internetmatters.org/issues/fake-news-and-misinformation-advice-hub

3. The online together project

A new interactive tool that encourages children to take part in building a positive and inclusive culture online – focussing on gender stereotypes. Take a short quiz with your child to help them recognise how gender stereotypes can impact them in online spaces and encourage them to respect and celebrate differences.

Visit internetmatters.org/resources/theonlinetogetherproject

‘Squid Game – What Parents Need To Know’.

The National Online Safety hub has produced a free guide for parents and carers which explores the potential risks of **Squid Game** for children. Squid Game is an extremely popular series on Netflix and has a 15-age rating. Even if children don't have access to Netflix, they could come across games with similar challenges on platforms such as Roblox, Tik Tok, Discord or You Tube.

Visit: nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday/squid-game-trending-across-platforms-what-parents-need-to-know

The guidance states:

‘As a parent or carer, keep a watchful eye on the content that your children are viewing. Speak to them openly and chat about how they have been spending time on their devices; let them ask questions, too. Ensure that the parental controls are activated on your child's device and that age-restricted child profiles are properly set up any on-demand services available through the family TV (such as Netflix, in this case) to prevent inappropriate content being streamed.

If you see your child replicating the challenges from the show or hear them talking about scenes and characters from Squid Game, it would be a timely opportunity to discuss with them that the programme is not intended for children, that much of the content would be inappropriate for their age, and that the violence in the series is very realistic and often upsetting.’

Online grooming and reporting online sexual abuse

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) helps keep children safe from online grooming. Grooming is a word used to describe people befriending children in order to take advantage of them for sexual purposes. If you suspect it is an adult who is in contact with your child, and they are behaving inappropriately then you should report this to the **CEOP**

A summary of what parents need to know about online grooming can be found at:

internetmatters.org/issues/online-grooming/learn-about-it

The links below contain a range of further information and age appropriate resources to help keep children safe from child sexual exploitation.

5-7 year olds - thinkuknow.co.uk/4_7

8-10 year olds - thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10

11-13 year olds - thinkuknow.co.uk/11_13

Young people 14+ thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus

Parents/carers - thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Keeping under 5's safe online

It's never too early to start taking action to keep your child safe online. As soon as your child starts talking about or exploring the online world, you should start conversations with them about their online activity and put support in place.

Visit the **Thinkuknow website** to read their article which looks at the benefits of children accessing the internet and how to make sure your children have a safe experience online.

- Explore together
- Talk to your child about their online experiences
- Supervise your under 5 while they're online
- Parental controls
- SafeSearch
- Set boundaries
- Lead by example

Visit: thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/keeping-your-under-five-safe-online/



Inclusive Digital Safety hub

Internet Matters and the South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) have created an advice hub. The hub is a place where parents, carers, and professionals working with children and young people with additional needs, disabilities, or lifestyles that expose them to risk can be equipped and empowered to make meaningful interventions in their digital lives.

'Empowering parents, carers, and professionals with tailored advice and insight to make meaningful interventions in the lives of children and young people most likely to experience online risks, this advice hub is the first of its kind.'

The hub includes advice guides:

- Connecting and Sharing Online: online safety advice for parents and carers supporting children with SEND
- Parent and carers advice guide to help LGBTQ+ young people while gaming

Visit: internetmatters.org/inclusive-digital-safety

The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online.

Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and whole school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the Herts for Learning Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire.

Herts for Learning (HfL) is a provider of products and services to schools and educational settings. We believe that every young person, through access to a great education, should be able to realise their potential, regardless of where they live or their circumstances.

