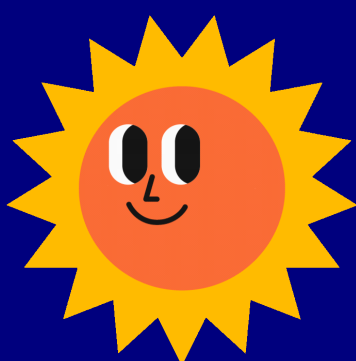


The Internet is a great space to learn, stay connected and enjoy ourselves. Help to keep your child safe online by keeping up to date with online trends, risks and news. If in doubt about any aspects of online safety don't hesitate to contact the Safeguarding Team at your child's academy who can offer advice and support.



SUMMER TIME SCREEN TIME

With the summer holidays fast approaching, we can't guarantee the sun, but we can predict high levels of screen time for our children and young people.

But what is the best way to approach this? Check Ineqe's top tips and range of expert resources to help with managing screen time here;

<https://ineqe.com/2024/06/20/summertime-screen-time-2024/>

IMPORTANT NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY ALERT

The National Crime Agency recently released an important alert about the increasing threat of a form of online blackmail which you may have seen referred to as 'Sextortion' in the news. Although the most at risk have been highlighted as boys aged between 14-17 and young men between 18-30 it is important that all of us are aware of the features of this crime and what to do if we think anyone may be affected.

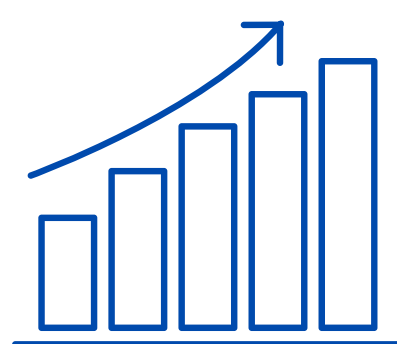
This type of crime involves an adult offender (often from an organised crime group based overseas) threatening to release nude or semi-nude images and/or videos of a child or young person, unless they pay money, or meet another financial demand, such as purchasing a pre-paid gift card.

A child or young person is never to blame if they have been a victim. Offenders will have tricked, groomed and/or manipulated them into sharing an image. Find out more about online blackmail on CEOP Education's parents and carers website here;

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/online-blackmail/>

What do I do if this happens to my child?

- Don't pay, stop contact and block. Payment can make demands increase rather than ending the matter.
- Avoid deleting things as this could provide evidence.
- Report to the police and CEOP
<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>
- Talk to staff at your academy so they can support you and your child.



Report Remove

Having a good knowledge of online risk helps us to ensure our children can enjoy the internet safely.

During recent years there has been a sharp increase in the rise of child sexual abuse images online. During 2023 the Internet Watch Foundation received 392,665 reports of such images and scarily 92% of the content removed had originally been 'self generated' sometimes due to children having been manipulated or coerced into sharing images. The Internet Watch Foundation works hard to have images removed and empowers people to do this themselves through their Report Remove tool which can be found here;

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS I CAN HELP TO KEEP MY CHILD SAFE ONLINE AS A PARENT?

- It's important to have frequent and non-judgmental conversations with your child about healthy and unhealthy relationships.
- Talk about where to find information about relationships and sex; and organisations like CEOP Education, Childline and Brook have age appropriate advice topics such as sexual communication and image sharing. This will help your child to understand what unhealthy relationships look like, such as applying pressure and blackmail; and give them trusted sources of information to explore these topics themselves.
- <https://www.brook.org.uk/topics/relationships/>
- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/friends-relationships-sex/sex-relationships/healthy-unhealthy-relationships/>
- <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/>
- Chat regularly about their online life, what they like doing and what the risks could be.
- Review Privacy settings. Use the guides found here to help you; <https://oursafetycentre.co.uk/> and talk to your child about doing this for themselves using this guidance; <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/a-parents-guide-to-privacy-settings/>
- Make sure they know where to go for support. Let them know they can talk to you and they won't be in trouble. Let them know they can talk to staff at school who will help them.
- Contact your academy Safeguarding Team who can provide further advice and guidance around online safety including how to report concerns.
- Use the links below for further advice and guidance.

Useful links

The following websites all contain useful sources of information for parents and carers

