



The Appleton School

Safeguarding Newsletter Online Safety

Squid Game – rated 15+

Season 2 of Netflix's Squid Game is now available and has been rated 15 by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC). You can find out why Squid Game has been rated 15+ by visiting the BBFC:

<https://www.bbfc.co.uk/release/squid-game-q29sbgvidglvbjpwwc01mzm3ndg>

Due to its popularity, Squid Game related content can be found on numerous other platforms such as YouTube, TikTok and Roblox, so your child may come across this show without even viewing it on Netflix. Content may range from trailers of the show or content that other people create such as memes and games.

What can I do?

- Parental Controls - Set up appropriate parental controls on your broadband, devices and on individual apps to reduce access to content that is not appropriate for their age.
- Talk - Chat to your child about age ratings and why this means certain programmes are not suitable for them to watch.
- Individual Profiles - Set up child profiles on any streaming services to ensure your child is only viewing content appropriate to them.
- Reporting - Make sure your child knows how to report and block on all platforms that they use.
- Explore - Watch and explore things online together so you can see what your child is doing and how to support them.

More information:

It is important to talk to your child regularly about what they are watching and ensure that they know they should always tell you or another trusted adult if they do see anything upsetting. You can find out more about the type of inappropriate content your child might come across online here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/inappropriate-content/learn-about-it/>

Should children have mobile phones?

The Children's Society explore this important question in their recent blog titled "Should children have mobile phones?" The article discusses concerns such as excessive screentime being linked with mental health issues as well as the benefits of a child friendly phone rather than a smart phone. You can read the full article here:

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-we-do/blogs/should-children-have-mobile-phones>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.06.25.

Issue 9

23rd June 2025

Messaging others

There are many ways in which our children can communicate online, for example via messaging apps, social media apps and online games such as FIFA and Fortnite. We need to understand how and who our children are communicating with to keep them safe online.

Ensure your child knows to talk to a trusted adult should they need to. However, remind them that it is not appropriate to contact teachers online, they should only use official school communication methods.

What are the risks?

- Bullying and inappropriate chat.
- Contact from strangers.
- Sharing personal information including images.
- Sextortion - this is a form of extortion where somebody threatens to share a nude/sexual image of you.

How can I mitigate the risks?

- Ensure your child is accessing age appropriate apps/games and that appropriate parental controls are set up.
- Chat to your child about the risks so they are aware of what can happen online.
- Depending on the age of your child, it may be more appropriate for devices to be used in family rooms so you can monitor what they are doing.

Further information:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/Concerned-about-your-child/Online-contact-and-staying-safe/>

<https://www.brightcanary.io/what-to-do-when-your-child-sends-inappropriate-texts/>

Snapchat

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time e.g., 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.



Key Concerns

There are potential risks to using Snapchat, including:

- the risk of your child viewing content that is not appropriate for their age.
- location sharing (via Snap Map) (this can be switched off).
- cyberbullying.
- contact from strangers.
- excessive screen time.

Family Centre features

Snapchat's Family Centre is a set of parental controls and includes tools such as allowing you to:

- see who your child is friends with.
- see who your child has sent messages (not the contents of conversations though), photos or videos to in the last week.
- view a list of group members for groups that your child has been active in.
- restrict content to limit access.
- report any accounts that you are concerned about.

You can learn more about Family Centre here:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/family-center?lang=en-GB>

Safety tips

Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up on Snapchat, including who can see their location and also ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary:

<https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

More information

For more detailed advice and information:

- <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/blogs/the-risks-snapchat-poses-to-children>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/snapchat/>

'Foopah' – TikTok Trend

We have been made aware of a viral challenge circulating on TikTok using variations of the hashtag 'foopah'. A play of the phrase 'faux pas' (an embarrassing public act), the trend encourages users to upload 'blind and you'll miss it' nudity. This aims to get around the platform's detection and moderation by being hidden in plain sight. Using screens, mirrors, and other reflective surfaces are just some of the ways people have taken part in the challenge.

The content itself ranges from those who are sharing more obvious sexually explicit content to suggestive but subtle imagery of themselves. The trend also creates an allure for young people who are taking to various platforms to 'react' to the challenge or discuss it with others online.

The challenge originated from the one TikTok user as a way of promoting her OnlyFans account.

For more information please visit:

<https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2023/02/24/explicit-content-tiktok-trend/>

Do you need help managing your child's device?

You can use Google Family Link or Apple Family Sharing to help you depending on your child's device.

Google Family Link

This is a free parental control app from Google that lets you:

- View activity reports showing how long they spend on each app.
- Approve or block new app downloads.
- Set screen time limits.
- Find their location.

You will need to download an app and then decide appropriate settings.

<https://families.google/familylink/>

Apple Family Sharing

You can set up Family Sharing in the settings of your device. Family Sharing allows you to:

- Share Apple subscriptions and purchases from the App Store.
- Approve what children purchase/download.
- Limit screen time.
- Share locations and find devices

<https://www.apple.com/uk/family-sharing/>

Monitoring Apps (paid for)

In addition, there are apps that you can pay for that you may find provides a better solution for you. Whilst we cannot recommend or endorse a specific product, these are some examples that you could review and test using a free trial:

Norton Family:

<https://uk.norton.com/products/norton-family>

Qustodio:

<https://www.qustodio.com/en/>

Family Time:

<https://familytime.io/>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about OFCOM MEDIA REPORT 2025

Every year, Ofcom releases its Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report, offering fresh insights into how young people are using digital platforms. The 2025 edition highlights key safeguarding concerns as children's engagement with social media, gaming, and live streaming continues to grow. This guide pulls out the top statistics from the report, focussing on the main areas of concern for parents and educators.

ONLINE LIVES

Children are engaging with social media and online content at increasing rates:

37%
3-5s

now have access to social media platforms; however, only a small proportion use it independently of parents.

79%
3-17s

have a social media profile, with 16% including a public photo.

66%
3-17s

watch livestreamed videos regularly, with 16% of them streaming their own content.

POST

ONLINE GAMING

Gaming remains popular but raises concerns:

74%

of children say they play with someone they know, while 32% report playing with strangers.

62%

of parents worry about their children talking to strangers while gaming.

31%

of children who game online chat with people they don't know.

PARENTAL CONCERNS

Parents are increasingly worried about online risks:

70%

fear their child may see age-inappropriate or sexual content.

68%

fear exposure to content that promotes self-harm.

72%

worry about their child distinguishing real from fake information.

61%

worry about exposure to extreme views.

69%

are concerned about online bullying.

SCREEN TIME

Screen time is still a major challenge for parents:

70%
of parents of 13-17s say it's difficult to manage screen time.

33%
of 8-17s think their own screen time is too high.

At **29% vs 24%** boys were more likely than girls to disagree that their screen time is too high.

18

HARMFUL CONTENT & INTERACTIONS

A significant minority of children continue to have negative feelings about social media and messaging apps:

Nearly four in ten 8-17s believe that people are mean or unkind to each other online all or most of the time.

Girls aged 8-17 are more likely than boys to say they have experienced someone being nasty or hurtful to them online (31%).

One third of teenagers agree that it's important that people can say what they want online, even if it offends someone.

ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

Positively, the vast majority of children reported learning about online safety at school:

92%

of children aged 8-17 recall at least one lesson on online safety and most report finding them useful.

The top three topics covered are:

63%

How to recognise harmful content.

63%

How to keep personal information safe.

62%

Being kind and respectful online.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /wuw.thenationalcollege

ig @wake.up.wednesday

yt @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 28.05.2025