



# Student Wellbeing Resource

Online Safety

# Online Safety



## Overview

Using the internet with children and young people is an incredibly rewarding experience. Incorporating internet safety themes across the curriculum, and celebrating the benefits of new technologies, can enhance learning in so many ways. Students have access to the internet at school and home where some supervision and restrictions can be applied, but access on their phones is much more difficult to manage, and the messages and information received through social media can have a significant impact on emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Cyberbullying is an increasingly common form of bullying behaviour which happens on social networks, games and mobile phones. Cyberbullying can include spreading rumours about someone, or posting nasty or embarrassing messages, images or videos.

Children may know who's bullying them online – it may be an extension of offline peer bullying or abusive behaviour from someone they are or have been in a relationship with - or they may be targeted by someone using a fake or anonymous account. It's easy to be anonymous online and this may increase the likelihood of engaging in bullying behaviour.

**Cyberbullying** includes:

- sending threatening or abusive text messages.
- creating and sharing embarrassing images or videos.
- 'trolling' - the sending of menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games.
- excluding children from online games, activities or friendship groups.

- setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child.
- encouraging young people to self-harm.
- voting for or against someone in an abusive poll.
- creating fake accounts, hijacking or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name.
- sending explicit messages, also known as sexting.
- pressuring children into sending sexual images or engaging in sexual conversations .

**Grooming** is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking. Children and young people can be groomed online or face-to-face, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional. Groomers may be any age and gender.

Many children and young people don't understand that they have been groomed or that what has happened is abuse. Groomers can use social media sites, instant messaging apps including teen dating apps, or online gaming platforms to connect with a young person or child. They can spend time learning about a young person's interests from their online profiles and then use this knowledge to help them build up a relationship.

It's easy for groomers to hide their identity online - they may pretend to be a child and then chat and become 'friends' with children they are targeting. Groomers may look for:

## Overview (cont)

- usernames or comments that are flirtatious or have a sexual meaning
- public comments that suggest a child has low self-esteem or is vulnerable.

Groomers don't always target a particular child. Sometimes they will send messages to hundreds of young people and wait to see who responds. Groomers no longer need to meet children in real life to

## Best Practice

- Develop policies and procedures as part of the school's safeguarding practice.
- Encourage students to share concerns about online content and behaviour with staff.
- Ensure that students have the information they need to control their online accounts including privacy settings, blocking users and reporting abuse.
- Support students to develop the skills they need to manage their online activity using the NSPCC TEAM approach: Talk about what's safe and what's not, Explore their on-line world, Agree what's ok and what's not and Manage settings and parental controls.
- Respond to known risks such as social media encouraging young people to self-harm and suicide.
- Promote apps that support mental health.

abuse them. Increasingly, groomers are sexually exploiting their victims by persuading them to take part in online sexual activity.

When sexual exploitation happens online, young people may be persuaded, or forced, to:

- send or post sexually explicit images of themselves
- take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone
- have sexual conversations by text or online.

Abusers may threaten to send images, video or copies of conversations to the young person's friends and family unless they take part in other sexual activity. Images or videos may continue to be shared long after the sexual abuse has stopped. (NSPCC website).

## Resources

Guidance for schools on responding to sexting can be found at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/online-abuse/legislation-policy-practice/#sextingguidance>

The NSPCC website has useful information, advice and resources: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Kidscape has practical advice on privacy settings and how to block users to help young people stay in control of their online world: <https://www.kidscape.org.uk/advice/advice-for-young-people/dealing-with-cyber-bullying/cyber-safe-settings/>

# Online Safety

## Resources

Abusive online content can be reported to Internet Watch Foundation which works in partnership with police and voluntary organisations to remove images that may be abusive or used to exploit children <https://www.iwf.org.uk/>

Childline provide telephone support and online information and

advice on e-safety <https://www.childline.org.uk/> Tel: 0800 1111

Online abuse can be reported to the National Crime Agency Child Exploitation and Online protection <https://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Resources for schools to help you use the internet safely and positively as a professional, and information to help safeguard your workplace and the young people you work with <http://www.childnet.com/teachers-and-professionals>

## Local Offers and Providers

Provider	What they offer	Cost	Contact details
Safeguarding Sheffield Children	Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) co-ordinates a city-wide approach to e-safety, also known as online safeguarding. On the SSCB website you will find information and guidance that will help you to understand the safeguarding issues relating to the use of information technology and implement safety measures to enable you and the children and young people you work with to do this safely.	Free	<a href="http://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org/sscb/safeguarding-information-and-resources/online-safeguarding">http://www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org/sscb/safeguarding-information-and-resources/online-safeguarding</a>  For safeguarding concerns about children and young people, call the Sheffield Safeguarding Hub: 0114 273 4855
Golddigger Trust	Golddigger Trust is a Sheffield based Charity, offering a variety of wellbeing projects, both within the school environment, and extra-curricular activities within the community, for young people aged 11-19.  Services include:  <b>1:1 Mentoring</b> – Bespoke, flexible programmes of mentoring for students addressing specific needs identified. Minimum 6 sessions (usual course approx. 8-14 sessions).  Students accessing Golddigger Trust services via school can also access additional free services outside of school hours, including drop in youth clubs, sexual health clinic, sports and music sessions and online support.	Cost varies based on service and available charitable funding, contact for most up to date costings.  Community based services are free, accessed by community referral (MAST, CAMHS, Self-referral etc). There is no charge to young people.	0114 327 1191  Golddigger Trust Centre For Young People, 10 Psalter Lane, Sheffield, S11 8YN  <a href="mailto:info@golddiggertrust.co.uk">info@golddiggertrust.co.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.golddiggertrust.co.uk">www.golddiggertrust.co.uk</a>