

Welcome to the July 2024 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Online Gaming

With the summer holidays about to commence, we thought it would be useful to remind and sign-post parents and carers of advice and guidance available on Online Gaming. Scomis recommends the following websites:

Childnet—[Online Gaming; an introduction for parents and carers](#) includes :

- An introduction to Online Gaming
- How and where to play safely
- The risks of Online Gaming
- Frequently Asked Questions

+ **Help and advice for Parents and carers**



Tools available to help keep children safe while they chat playing online games:

- **How to report inappropriate behaviour**
- **How long to allow children to play games**

Support and more information is available from Childnet [here](#)

[CEOPS ThinkUKnow](#)

[Gaming: what parents and carers need to know](#)

includes advice on:

- 3 ways to make gaming safer for your child
- how risky is in-game chat?
- how to tell what is an age appropriate game
- In App purchases

Remember – If you are worried that your child may be being groomed in a game, or on any other online platform you should seek support. You can contact the [CEOP Safety Centre](#) to report your concerns. If you believe a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999



Check the CEOP videos for more information on how to keep your child safe. See the links below:

[4-7 year olds](#) [8-10 year olds](#) [11-18 year olds](#)

[Parents and Carers](#)

Review the [Gaming Dictionary](#) from the South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) and discover the meaning of: **FPS, CCG, MMO** and much more.

childline *Free, confidential support online and over the phone for young people under 19.*

www.childline.org.uk Call 0800 1111

Free information and support for

under 25s provided by the charity – **THE MIX**

The Mix. www.themix.org.uk

Use their crisis messenger by texting THEMIX to 85258

Social Media

Do you know how children use social media?

Do you know what apps they use?

Do you know how to use privacy settings?

Do you know the recommended ages for use of apps?

To find answers to the above questions and for advice and guidance visit:

[Commonsensemedia—Apps sorted by age](#)

[Parentzone—Age ratings](#)

[UK Saferinternet Centre—advice centre for parents and carers](#)

includes parent guides to: mobile phones; laptops; smart devices; smart TVs; games consoles; social media

[Pegi—age related ratings](#) for online games, videos, films.

NB. PEGI ratings are quite easy to understand. They use a clear number to show from which age the game is suitable for before buying a game for minors.



Reminder for Grandparents!

With the summer holidays fast approaching we remind Grandparents of the UK Safer Internet Centre's resource to [support grandparents with online safety](#).

The guidance includes:

- how to [support your grandchild](#) in using the internet safely and responsibly
- how to respond if something goes wrong

The resource also provides answers to frequently asked questions:

- How to understand the latest technologies and trends?
- How to understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to online safety?
- What you should know about parental controls?
- How to talk to your grandchild about their online life?
- Where to go for help or to report something worrying or inappropriate?

Find out more [here](#)

Be in the know! Subscribe to the

[UK Safer Internet Centre's](#) newsletter [here](#)

What to do if you need help

Visit the [UK Safer Internet Centre's](#) website to access details and links for a number of organisations that can help with:

- Reporting on Social Media
 - Reporting Criminal Content Online
- and much more!

Need FREE advice? phone the [NSPCC](#): 0808 800 5000

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