

Reporting Harmful Content Leading by Example

HATE

STUPID

Recent research has shown that children and young people are very unlikely to take action, such as reporting or flagging to the platform, when they see harmful content and behaviours online. So why is that?



What Inappropriate Content Are Children and Young People Seeing Online?

Unfortunately, children and young people are likely to be the target of some types of inappropriate content and abusive behaviours that adults won't be. This includes grooming attempts, trolling, and cyberbullying from their classmates or peer group.

REPORT

WHY DON'T CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REPORT ONLINE ABUSE AND HARMFUL CONTENT?



UGLY

FAT

ENCOURAGING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO REPORT ONLINE ABUSE AND INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Talk and Listen!



Talking to a child or young person about how to stay safe online may help reduce the chances of them viewing inappropriate content or being susceptible to grooming etc. Build a relationship in which the child or young person in your care feels secure and confident to confide in you and openly discuss things that upset them.

Encourage conversations about online experiences, both good and bad.



Reassure them that simply reporting content won't get them in trouble nor will talking to you about something they've seen online that upsets them or makes them feel uncomfortable.



If your child does come to you to talk about something they've seen online, stay calm. Although you might be shocked or even angry at them for using a site or app you told them not to, having a strong emotional reaction may put them off coming to you again in the future.

Learn Together



Sit down with the child or young person in your care, learn how to do report, flag and block on each platform. Remember, lots of people are visual learners so have your phone or digital device handy so you can all see exactly where the buttons are on the actual platform.

Be An Example



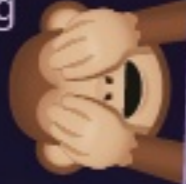
One of the best things we can do to help children and young people stay safer online is to lead by example. Just like in the offline world, the children in your care look to the trusted adults around them for guidance on how to navigate, react and interact in this world.



Show and talk to the children in your care about what you do when you come across harmful content and bad online behaviour. This could be as simple as mentioning that you saw a bullying comment online, so you reported it to the platform.

Shame and Embarrassment

Becoming a target for bullying or online abuse can be a source of embarrassment for a child or young person as they may feel like they have done something wrong or that there's something 'wrong' with them.



If a child or young person has accidentally seen or been sent something that has sexual context, they may feel awkward discussing the subject matter.

Getting in Trouble

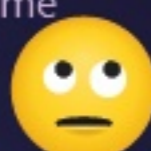
Children and young people could be concerned about their parents' reactions: will they be cross and think the child was looking at something online they shouldn't be?



They may also misunderstand the legalities around harmful illegal content and think they will be in trouble for simply viewing it. They may worry about the police or their school getting involved.

Built-up Tolerance and Acceptance

Unfortunately, children and young people may just be 'used to it' when it comes to seeing inappropriate and harmful content online. The prevalence at which they encounter this type of material or come across abusive content might mean that it's accepted as part of the normal experience of being online and just 'background noise' they block out.



Not Knowing What to Do

Every app, platform and website have their own processes for dealing with harmful content and a different interface for doing so.



Although many children and young people are very tech-savvy, this doesn't mean that they are all equipped with the knowledge of how to report or flag things online.



If you're someone who usually scrolls past abusive or harmful content, ask yourself, 'would I want my or any child to see this?'.
If the answer is no, take action!



oursafetycentre.co.uk

Use our Safety Centre to learn together how to enable the most appropriate safety settings and use parental controls on apps and platforms that the child or young person in your care uses.