

Understanding Online Safety –
Guidance for Parents / Carers



Risks and Negative Experiences



So what are the **RISKS**?



content: being exposed to **illegal**, inappropriate, or **harmful** content, for example: **pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation, and extremism.**

contact: being subjected to harmful online **interaction** with other users; for example: peer to **peer pressure**, commercial **advertising** and **adults posing as children** or young adults with the intention to **groom** or **exploit** them for **sexual, criminal, financial** or other purposes

conduct: online **behaviour** that increases the likelihood of, or **causes, harm**; sharing and receiving **explicit images** (e.g. **nudes** and semi-nudes and/or **pornography**) and online **bullying**

commerce: risks such as online **gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing** and or **financial scams**

Average age children first view pornography is 13

Substantial proportions viewed it at a much younger age— **27% by age 11 and 10% by the age of 9**

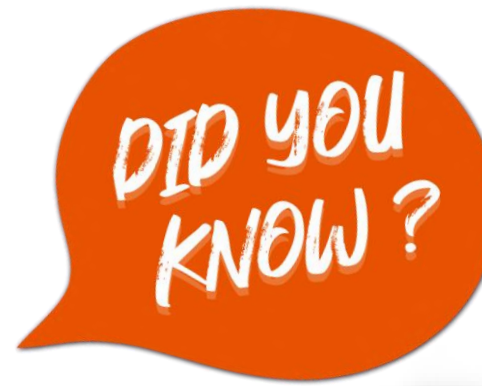
Reported of unbearable **pressure to view hardcore** pornography even if they do not want to

Viewed degrading acts and **violence against women**

Think it is **reflective of real life or healthy relationships**

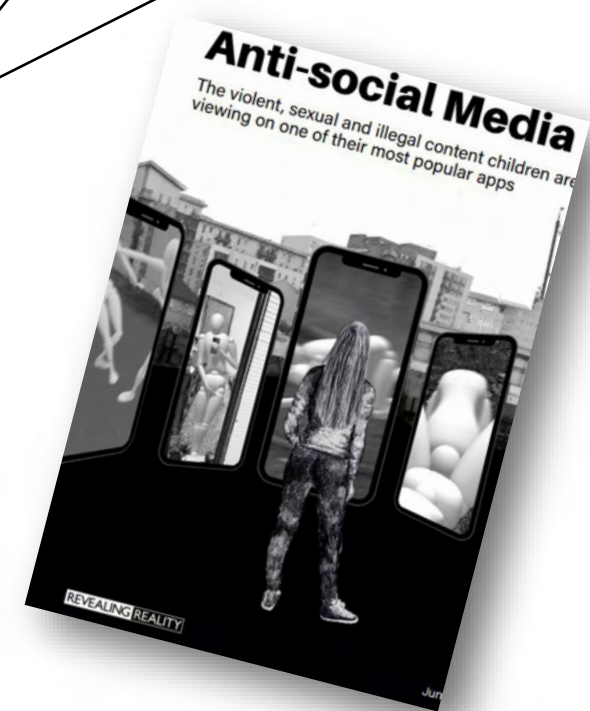
Pornography sites are not the only way, or even the most popular way, that young people access online porn

Wide **prevalence** of pornography on **social media platforms** such as **Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram**



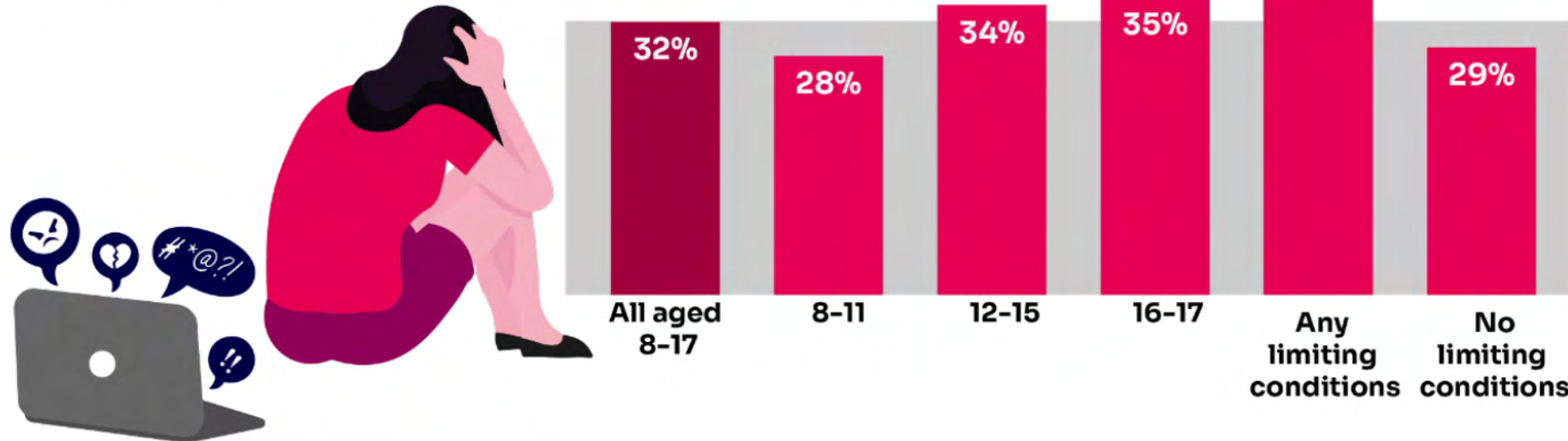
- **Disturbing, graphic and illegal content viewed:**
 - Fights / beatings / stabbings / raids
 - Sexual assaults, sex acts involving children, CSAM
 - Sale of weapons and drugs online(Some see this type of content several times a day, daily)
- **Wouldn't consider reporting** – seen what happens to a 'grass'
- While other children use Snapchat's built-in filters to add funny effects to their selfies, the filter these children experience is the **normalisation of humiliation, aggression, violence and crime**

Snapchat:
'It's our evening news'



Summary of children's negative experiences:

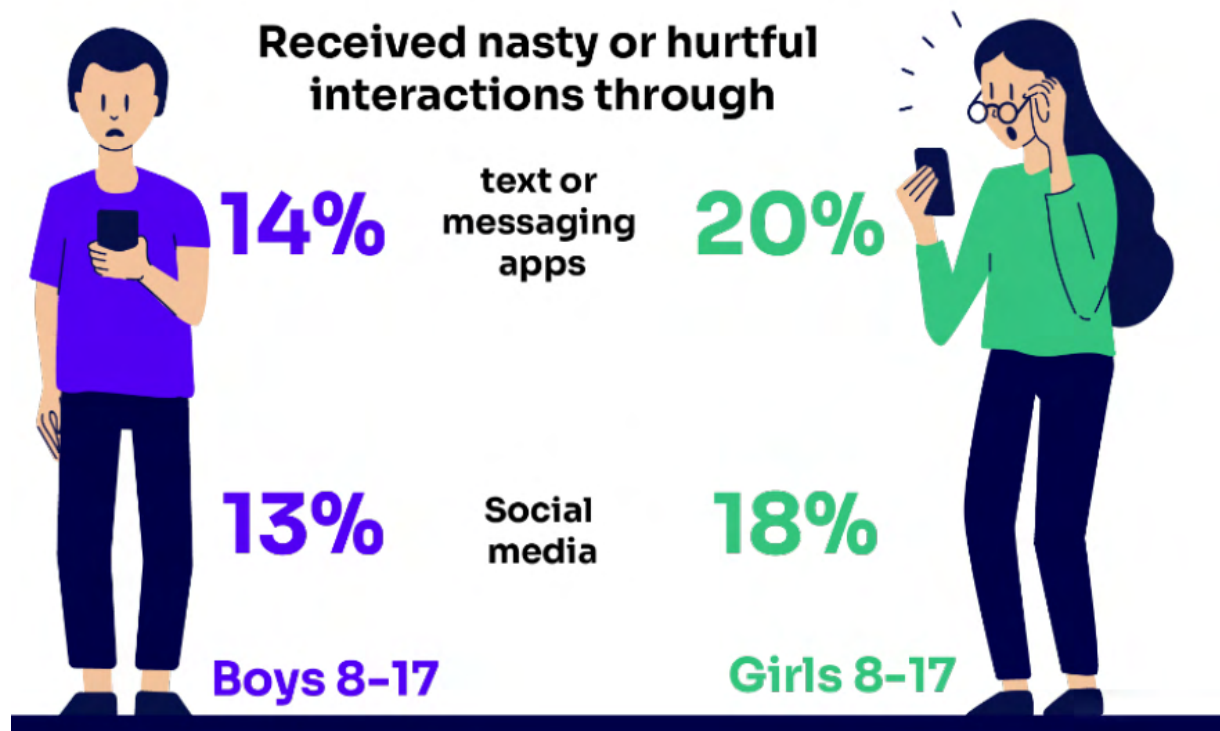
In the past 12 months, have you seen anything online that you found worrying or nasty in some way that you didn't like?



BUT only 20% of parents report their child telling them about this in the same time frame.

Source: Children and parents: Media use and attitudes report 2023

Bullying



- There is an increase in the proportion of children and young people who have experienced **bullying via social media** apps/sites (18% vs 15% in 2022)
- **girls are more likely** than boys to experience online bullying

Source: Children and parents: Media use and attitudes report 2023

Nudes / Semi-Nudes

Older girls (aged 16-18) were more likely than boys to have ever been exposed to potentially uncomfortable or unwanted types of contact:

Receiving pictures or videos of naked / half-dressed people
32% (2023) vs 11% (2022)

Asked to share naked/half-dressed pictures of themselves
24% (2023) vs 9% (2022)

Source: Children and parents:
Media use and attitudes
report 2023

Early 2022: Taylor (13) received messages from people she did not know that **included nude images or inappropriate messages.**

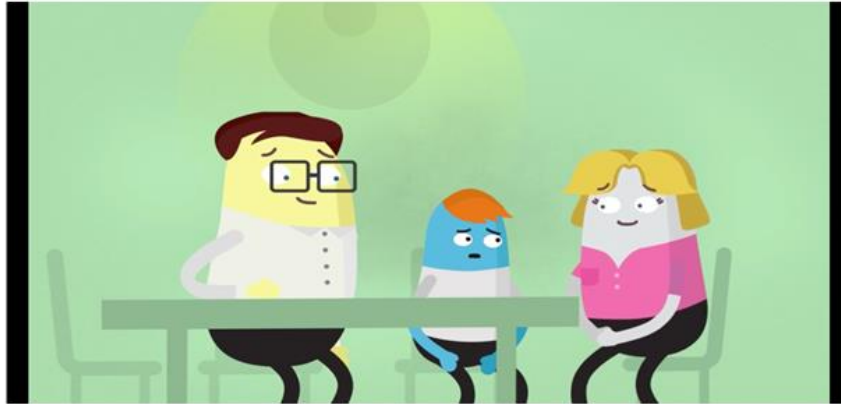
“I’d probably get one or two messages a month. They want [to add you on Snapchat] because on Snapchat, you can send pictures that you can’t get away with on Instagram.”

End of 2022: She had taken steps to reduce this happening by **no longer adding people on Snapchat after they had messaged her on Instagram or using Snapchat’s Quick Add feature to talk to strangers.**

“It [receiving an inappropriate message from a stranger] hasn’t happened in a long time. Maybe once in the last year...
It doesn’t happen much anymore because I don’t really talk to people I don’t know any more.”

So, what can **YOU** do?

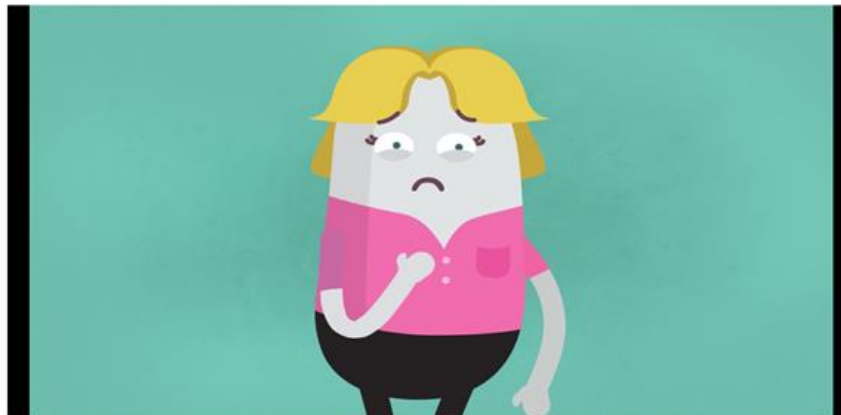
Nude Selfies: Understanding Why



Nude Selfies: Talking to your child



Nude Selfies: When should I be worried?



Nude Selfies: Where to get help



youtu.be/XjV0lKYpakk?si=6ONdtZJRjfB6bSRj – what parents and carers need to know
youtu.be/E5LA2nKHVZ0?si=gU3_jXFF51TU3vTq – when should you be worried?

Rise in reporting of financially motivated sexual extortion - **SEXTORTION**

Sextortion is:

- A type of **online blackmail**
- Involves an adult offender posing as a young person, threatening to release **nude or semi-nude images and/or videos** of a child or young person, unless they pay money
- Victims of any age and gender can be targets - majority of cases have involved **male victims aged 14-18**

https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/globalassets/professional/guidance/nca_financially_motivated_sexual_extortion_alert_education_eng.pdf



Parents and carers template letter

Dear parent/guardian,

All schools in the UK have recently been sent information from the National Crime Agency, raising awareness of the recent rise in reporting of financially motivated sexual extortion (a type of online blackmail often known in the media as 'sextortion'). Children and young people worldwide are being targeted.

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.

Victims of any age and gender can be targets, however a large proportion of cases have involved male victims aged 14-18.

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](#).

Talking to your child

It's important to have frequent, open and non-judgemental conversations with your child about relationships, sex and being online to build trust and support

Advice for parents or
carers of children
who are being
sexually extorted or
'sextorted'

UK Reporting Helplines and Services for Children and Young People

Call 101 or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm to your child

Take **It** Down

[Take It Down](#)

[The Mix - Essential support for under 25s](#)



NCA

Young people can report concerns about child sexual abuse and exploitation to NCA

[Home - National Crime Agency](#)



Nude image of you online?
We can help take it down.

Report Remove

A free tool that allows children to report nude or sexual images and videos of themselves that they think might have been shared online

[Report Remove | Childline](#)



ChildLine

A free, private and confidential service where CYP can talk about anything to a trained counsellor, online or on the phone

[Childline | Childline](#)



Go to reporting.lgfl.net to find out more

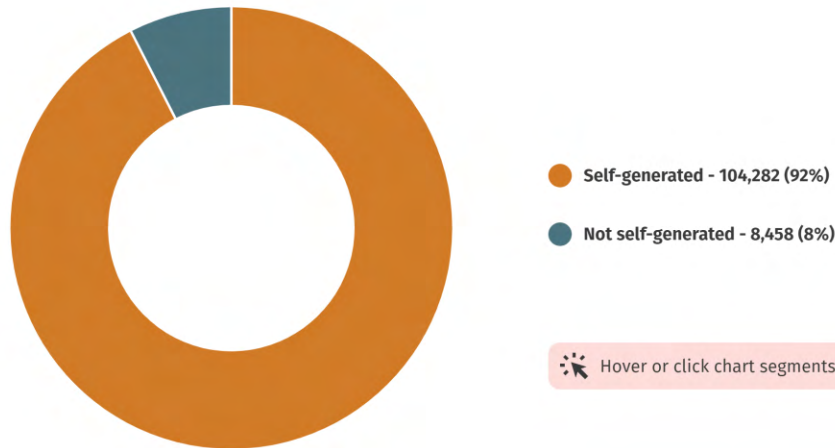
11-13-year-olds - sex of victims



Pre-pubescent children

2022 was the first year that 'self-generated' child sexual abuse reports of 7-10-year-olds were more prevalent than non-self-generated reports, and this trend continued into 2023.

7-10-year-olds - types of abuse



Hover or click chart segments for values.

One of the biggest increases seen in the latest data, is the rise in the number of images found of 7-10 year olds



This is one of the reasons why we as parents need to start the conversations as early as possible with children, and to be very considered about when children start using devices and controls

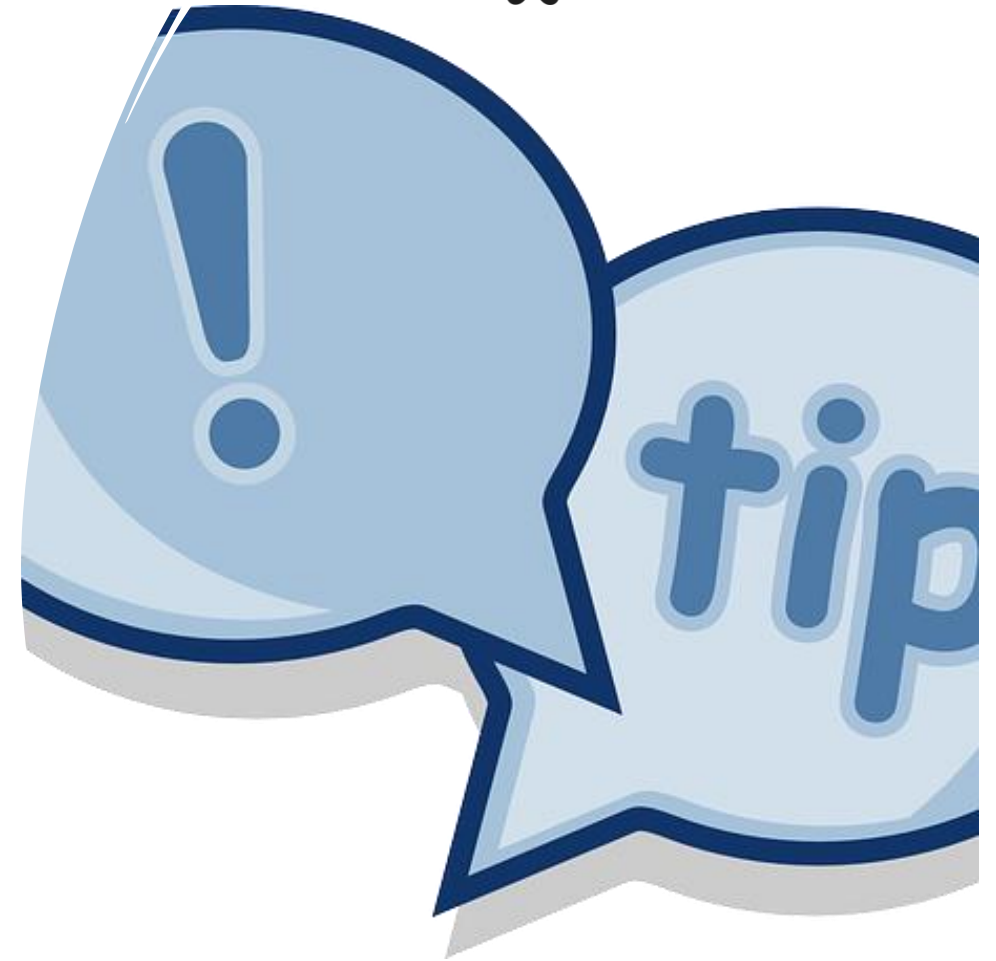
So, what can **YOU** do?

Advice for our parents who also have younger children



Being safer while live streaming

- **Talk** to your child / young person about what they are sharing
- Use devices in **public spaces** e.g. lounge not bedroom
- Check privacy and safety **settings** on the app/site
- Be wary of **requests to chat in private**
- Know **Support and Reporting** functions



Reporting a Safeguarding Concern to the Buxton and Leek College Safeguarding Team



Go to our BLC “Report a Concern” Website Page:
[Report a safeguarding concern - Buxton & Leek College](#)

REPORT A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

MyVoice allows students, parents and carers to anonymously report a safeguarding concern about a student at Buxton and Leek College. Click the link or QR code to report your concern to our Safeguarding Team.

The form requires you to name the person(s) you are concerned about, write a sentence outlining the concern, indicating when this concern occurred, and then as much detail you can about your concern.

You can choose to remain anonymous or if you are happy to include your details you can do.

Remember

If possible, we would always prefer you to speak directly to a member of staff so that we can provide the most effective support.

This is NOT a place for reporting concerns about a member of staff.

This is NOT a forum through which to complain, please use existing processes to do this.

Any abuse of this system will not be tolerated and in the event that concerns are reported that are deliberately false or malicious, we will refer to Police as this behaviour may be considered a crime.

Student misuse of MyVoice may result in sanctions through our disciplinary process.

