

Welcome to the July 2025 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Age Checks for Online Safety

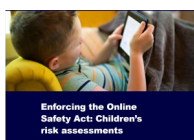


Ofcom to enforce new Online Safety Rules!

From 25th July 2025, all sites and apps that allow pornography will need to have strong age checks in place, to make sure children cannot access it or other harmful content.

Why?

- 8% cent of children aged 8-14 in the UK visited an online porn site or app in a month,
- Boys aged 13-14 were mostly likely to visit a porn service.



- Ofcom's research shows the vast majority of adults (80%) support age checks on online pornographic sites as a means of protecting children.

How Ofcom will enforce the rules

- Ofcom expects sites and apps to engage with them and comply with their duties under the new rules.
- Ofcom will be able to impose fines of up to £18m or 10% of their qualifying worldwide revenue (whichever is greater).
- In most serious cases, Ofcom can ask a court to impose sanctions on third parties, such as internet providers. Read in full [here](#)

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](#) **Important things to know**

[UK Saferinternet Centre—advice centre for parents and carers](#) **includes** parental guides for:

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.



**Need FREE advice? phone the [NSPCC](#): 0808 800 5000
Childline Counsellors: 0800 1111**

Reminder for Grandparents!

With the summer holidays fast approaching we remind Grandparents of the UK Safer Internet Centre's (UKSIC) 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 get help or to report something that is worrying or inappropriate?

Find out more [here](#)

Be in the know! Subscribe to the

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

Tips from the Children's Society

The Children's Society has put together some tips for parents and carers on keeping children safe while still enabling them to enjoy their time online.

- **Open up:** Create a space where your child(ren) can come to you when they're ready and not feel judged.
- **Set boundaries together:** Come to an agreement on privacy settings with your child(ren), where they feel listened to and involved.
- **Discuss the aims:** Talk to your child(ren) about online risks.

[Learn more about Online Safety including:](#)

- Online Gaming
- Child exploitation
- Social Media Apps
- What to do

Look out for the signs something might be wrong:

- Talking about new friends they've met online
- Becoming withdrawn and secretive
- Worried about being away from their device

[And more](#)

More Help Needed in the holidays! —Check UKSIC

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

- Reporting Criminal Content Online