



ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL

"Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly With Your God"

Cyber Safe

**ONLINE SAFETY
NEWSLETTER**

OCTOBER 2025



INTRODUCTION

Dear Students, Families, and Colleagues,

Welcome to the very first edition of **CyberSafe**, our online safety newsletter. As technology becomes an ever more central part of our learning, communication, and everyday lives, it is essential that we all understand how to use it safely, responsibly, and confidently.

This newsletter will be published each half term and will share practical advice, updates, and stories that will help us stay informed about the digital world – from managing online privacy and protecting personal information to understanding new trends and risks. Our goal is to support everyone in our Learning Family to make positive choices online.

As author and digital safety expert Anne Collier once said, *"It's not about restricting the use of technology, but about empowering young people to use it safely and wisely."*

Together, we can ensure that technology continues to be a force for learning, creativity, and connection – while keeping ourselves and each other safe.

Enjoy.



Mrs E. Loveland, Headteacher



Are YOU Worried?

If you have a concern about your daughter or another student's online activity or safety you can reach out to your child's Learning Support Coordinator or contact Kaylea Vevers, the Designated Safeguarding Lead, by emailing dsl@st-annes.enfield.sch.uk



ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023

New Regulations effective from July 2025

Key changes to the Online Safety Act:

- **Age assurance for pornography sites**

As of July 25, 2025, all sites offering pornography must implement “highly effective” age checks, such as facial age estimation or ID verification, to ensure children cannot access the content.

- **Strengthened protection for all ages**

The government is amending the Act to make content related to self-harm and suicide a “priority offense,” a new legal requirement for tech companies to protect users of all ages from this material.

- **Illegal content**

Tech companies now have new legal duties to remove illegal content from their sites and prevent it from appearing in the first place.

- **New duties for services**

User-to-user services that are likely to be accessed by children must put systems in place to prevent children from encountering priority content, like pornography, and protect them from other harmful content.

- **Safety-by-design**

The Act requires online services to build safety measures into their platforms from the start and operate with greater transparency and accountability.

- **Enforcement**

Ofcom is the regulator responsible for enforcing the Act and can impose fines of up to £18 million or 10% of a company’s global turnover for non-compliance.

Find out more here:

- www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/new-rules-for-a-safer-generation-of-children-online

How will the new online safety changes help to protect my child?

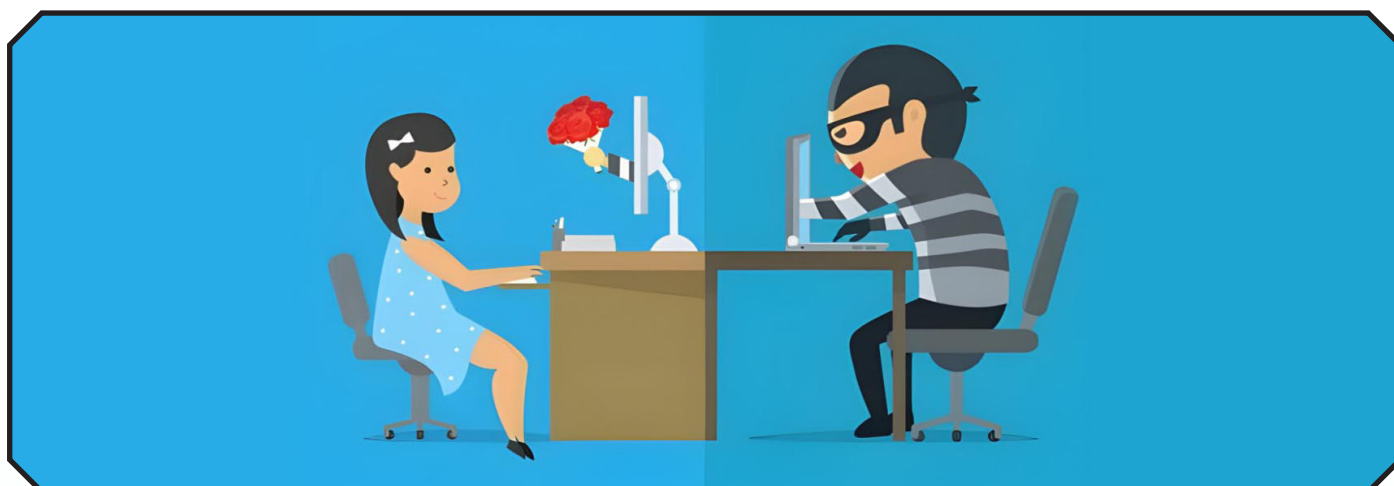
One of the main purposes of the Online Safety Act is to protect children online. Ofcom has published information on how they are helping children to be safer online. The first link is a guide for parents, which also includes a section on what you can do as a parent.

Find out more here:

- www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-ofcom-is-helping-children-to-be-safer-online-a-guide-for-parents



ONLINE GROOMING



Online grooming is when an adult tries to build a relationship with a child or young person online to harm or take advantage of them. This can happen through games, social media, chat apps, or live streaming. Adults seeking to groom children online may send sexual messages or images, ask them to do things they're not comfortable with, or try to meet up with them in person with the intention of sexually abusing them. This is illegal. Children may feel confused, scared, or guilty if this happens. It's important they know they can talk to a trusted adult, there is help available and that it's never their fault if they've been groomed online.

Find out more here:

- www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/online-grooming/
- www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-grooming/

Worried about your child and nudes?

What are nudes?

Nudes are self-taken images or videos that show someone nude or partially nude. Other terms may include 'nude selfies', 'pics', or 'n4n' (nudes for nudes). Young people sometimes share their nudes.

Are nudes illegal?

It is illegal to create, possess or share nude images of anyone under 18. However, the law is there to protect children and, in most cases where nudes have been consensually shared between young people, police consider a common-sense approach and don't pursue charges. Where an adult has asked or forced someone under 18 to share a nude, this is child sexual abuse and should be reported to the police.

Find out more here:

www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/Has-your-child-shared-a-nude-selfie-subtitled/

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ONLINE SCAMS

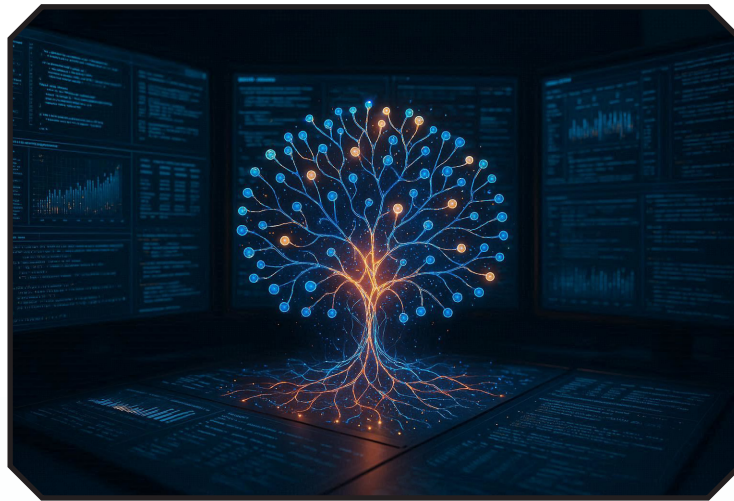
Online Scams Childnet have created a quiz for 9-13 year-olds that includes a range of potential online scams, as well as tips to help your child protect themselves online.

Find out more here:

- www.childnet.com/blog/test-your-knowledge-about-online-scams-with-our-quiz-for-9-13-year-olds/



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)



What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to grow, and examples include:

- **Search engines** such as Google now include an AI-generated overview as part of their results.
- **Virtual assistants** like Alexa, Meta AI and Siri.
- **Chatbots** such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat.

Opportunities

AI can be an effective tool when used correctly, for instance:

- **Homework** – children can use AI to support and assist their learning.
- **Advice** – AI can be used to provide information and suggestions on a variety of topics.

Risks and Concerns

- **Misinformation** – ensure your child understands that AI can sometimes provide incorrect or misleading information.
- **Privacy issues** – read any privacy policies before using.
- **Chat apps** – a simple search of “AI Chat” within the App store highlights the number of apps already available that are not suitable for children as many are rated as 17+.
- **Image manipulation** – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- **Deepfakes** – there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos that can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

How Can I Protect My Child?

To help keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- **Check age ratings** of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- **Develop your child’s digital literacy** by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- **Set up appropriate parental controls** on their devices/ broadband.
- **Chat to your child regularly** and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Find out more here:

- www.internetmatters.org/advice/byactivity/using-artificial-intelligence/what-is-ai-artificial-intelligence/
 - <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/should-you-worry-if-your-childhas-ai-friend>
- www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2025/artificial-intelligence-safety-tips-for-parents/

