

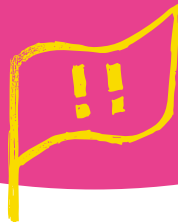




What to do if...



***someone sends
my child links
to adult content***



Your guide on **what to do if** someone sends your child links to adult content

1 in 4

Children sharing harmful experiences described Online Child Sexual Abuse*

*Figure taken from children who shared harmful experiences during our Respected and Safe program.

It is against the law to cause a child to view sexual images. This includes all kinds of online porn and doesn't matter if the image is real, animated or AI-generated.



We know from listening to children as part of Respected and Safe that this happens far too often – sometimes this might make it seem normalised. But **it is never okay** and the law is there to protect children from this kind of harm.

If you find out someone has sent your child sexual content, it's really important to try to stay calm and support them in getting the incident reported.

Although it might be our first instinct to block the person and ignore it, it's important to **report it properly**.

We have some safety steps for you to follow

Reassure



Children can find it **really difficult** to share when something like this has happened online.

It can be hard for them to recognise this kind of incident as harmful or feel confident to get support. They may feel nothing can be done about it. Often, worrying it is their fault or worrying they or others will be punished (especially having the device or app removed) stops children from talking to anyone about what has happened.

Reassure your child that they are not in trouble (and that they have done right thing by telling you). Make sure they know you are there to support them, and that you will find a solution together.

Stop and Don't Delete



If someone has sent something that makes a child feel really uncomfortable, they may feel shocked/worried/upset and want to delete the chat as quickly as possible.

It's important to support them to **stop replying** (whether it is one person or a group chat) but **not delete the chat**. They can block the person without losing the messages.

Even if messages appear to have disappeared from the app (e.g. Snapchat) or have been deleted, they can be recovered later by the Police. If your child has taken screenshots or a screen recording, or a note of any relevant username or group name, hold onto those.

These messages then need to be reported (see next step) so that we can all help stop this happening again to them or other children. Even if things have been deleted, you can and should still report.

Report It To The Police

Help them to report the incident to the police.

It's really important that we get more of this kind of online harm reported to the police.



You can report to the police by calling 101.

If your child wants to report something that has happened online, but doesn't want to report directly to the police (either by themselves or with your help), you can also help them to make a report via CEOP www.ceop.police.uk. Using the CEOP website, they can make a written report.

It is only through gathering more information that it can become possible for police to work out who is behind accounts requesting images from children; reporting an incident could help other children, too.

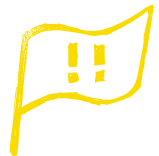
If you don't feel confident to do this, please contact us through our website and we can support you to report.

YOU CAN ALWAYS TALK TO US

Report It To The Platform

Once you have helped them to report the incident to the police, then you can support your child to report it to the platform where it happened, using in-app reporting tools.

Social media platforms don't usually process reports to police – so it's important to support children to report incidents properly before carefully using in-app reporting tools to say exactly what kind of harm has happened.



My child is in a group chat where people have posted inappropriate images/links, what should I do?



For children and young people, group chats are often an important form of communication with friends. They can also be chaotic spaces where things travel and escalate quickly.

Sometimes, certain behaviour that happens in group chats can become normalised, making it harder to recognise or call out. Group chats can also quickly become overwhelming... And, they might grow very quickly so that it is difficult to know who is involved / has access to the group chat.

However, we need to support children to create safer group chat spaces online, which importantly means getting more problematic behaviour in group chats reported. It is against the law to send a child images of or links to adult material in any setting.

If it happens in a group chat follow the same 5 steps and support them to leave the chat.

What if the person sending the inappropriate images/links is another child?



If your child has experienced this kind of behaviour in a group chat from another child, it does not change the process of responding.

It is still helpful to report the incident, and important to support your child in dealing with the impacts of this experience.

What are 'Add Everyone' group chats?

You might have heard of 'Add Everyone' group chats on Whatsapp. These can go by different names, but their purpose is usually the same.



These are big group chats where the aim is to add as many people as possible, sometimes from a certain area, or from a certain age group – for example, 'add all the P7s in Aberdeen'. These chats may be created by adults or by young people themselves as a way of connecting with one another. However, it is difficult to control who becomes a member of these groups – meaning access to children in the group can fall to anyone.

From *listening to children* during **Respected and Safe**, we know that often these group chats are spaces where inappropriate content is posted.

Although it might seem overwhelming, it is really important that we try to get more of these kinds of incidents online reported to the police. It's illegal to send a child / cause a child to view adult content and this applies to these kinds of group chats, where it is clear that there are children in the group. This also includes sharing manga/anime images of sexual content.

**RESPECTED
& SAFE**



Everything that happens
to children online *matters*.

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