

Welcome to the July 2023 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents and Carers

Online Gaming

With the summer holidays about to commence, we thought it would be useful to sign-post parents and carers to advice and guidance available on Online Gaming. Knowing where to start looking can be a challenge.

Scomis recommends the following websites:

Childnet—[Online Gaming; an introduction for parents and carers](#) includes :

- An introduction to Online Gaming
- How and where to play safely
- The risks of Online Gaming
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Tools available to help keep

children safe while they chat playing online games:

- **How to report inappropriate behaviour**
- **How long to allow children to play games**

Support and more information is available from Childnet [here](#)

CEOPS ThinkUKnow—[Gaming: what parents and carers need to know](#) includes advice on:

- 3 ways to make gaming safer for your child
- how risky is in-game chat?
- how to tell what is an age appropriate game
- In App purchases

Remember – If you are worried that your child may be being groomed in a game, or on any other online platform you should seek support. You can contact the [CEOP Safety Centre](#) to report your concerns. If you believe a child is in immediate danger, call the police on 999

Looking for more information on how to keep your child safe, including easy to watch videos? Check the links below:

[4-7 year olds](#) [8-10 year olds](#) [11-18 year olds](#)
[Parents and Carers](#)

Free, confidential support online and over the phone for young people under 19. [www.childline.org.uk](#)
Call 0800 1111

Free information and support for under 25s provided by the charity – **THE MIX**
The Mix. [www.themix.org.uk](#)
Use their crisis messenger by texting THEMIX to 85258

Review the [Gaming Dictionary](#) from the South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) and discover the meaning of: FPS, CCG, MMO and much more.

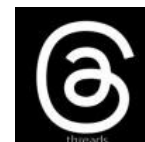
Reminder—check the websites:

[Childnet's Parent and Carer's Toolkit](#)
[ThinkUKnow's advice for Parents and Carer's](#)

Threads

CommonSense Media's review: . Parents need to know that Threads is a text-based social media app created by Meta. It's microblogging format is similar to [Twitter](#). Users have to have an [Instagram](#) account if they want to sign up. Users can share their thoughts in 500-character-maximum posts:

- include uploaded videos or photos
- follow accounts and interact with others on public threads.



Parents/carers need to know that young people may encounter :

- explicit content centred around dating and relationships;
- instances of cyberbullying and hate speech
- brands promoting their products and services
- discussion, promotion, and depictions of drinking, drugs and smoking.

There are also privacy and data sharing concerns.

Threads' data collection is more significant than that of Twitter and includes:

- search history;
- financial, contact and "sensitive" information

CommonSense Media's Recommended Age = 14+

Parents/Carers should check Threads 'privacy policy'
Read the review in full [here](#)

Reminder for Grandparents!

With the summer holidays fast approaching we remind Grandparents of the UK Safer Internet Centre's 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 go for help or to report something worrying or inappropriate?

Find out more [here](#)

Be in the know!. Subscribe to the [UK Safer Internet Centre's](#) newsletter:

What to do if you need help

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

- Reporting on Social Media
- Reporting Criminal Content Online

Need FREE advice? phone
the NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

SCOMIS
Your ICT Partner