



Online Safety UK

Online Harms Newsletter
Jubilee 2022

A DIGITAL WORLD, SAFER



42%

**OF CHILDREN SAID THEY
SPEND A LOT OF TIME OF
THEIR DEVICES BECAUSE
THEY ARE BORED.**



OUR INITIAL FINDINGS FROM OUR SURVEY ARE IN!

With more than 10,000 responses in 4 school weeks, we've begun to sift through the data and responses. We will soon be sending out reports to the more than 100 schools that participated in the survey so that they can see the information for the students from their schools and hopefully they will share some of this with you. But, we are looking to share some of the broader findings with you, starting with the reasons children say they use their screens so much. Importantly as part of the survey we really wanted to encourage honest responses, so children were often unaided in completing the survey and we asked adults to refrain from pre-judgments or hovering over shoulders whilst responses were made. [Find out more...](#)



PLAYSTATION USERS SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE CHANGING 22ND JUNE - YOU COULD BE CHARGED MORE!

We wanted to also make you aware of some changes to the Playstation online subscription model which is currently known as Playstation Plus and Playstation Now. You could be charged more as these changes happen. You can stop this by going into your account and checking your subscriptions. Prices range from £8.99 a month to £16.99 a month.

Find out more here: [UPDATE: All-new PlayStation Plus launches in June](#)

ONLINE CRAZES TAKE A HOLD AGAIN

There has been some recent publicity of this furry creature with sharp teeth. It's actually been around for over 18 months and most videos of him are innocent enough, for a lot of children. But some disturbing videos began to appear in April that may have frightened children and still has the potential of surfacing on their tablets and phones. [Find out more...](#)



YOUCAM MAKEUP

A seemingly innocent app, that when we reviewed it in 2020 has very little about it has crept back up due to Social Media Creators promoting the app and showing the features. It now has a 1-2-1 chat function, in-app purchases that if you don't buy them you are made to look 'ugly' and even more concerningly there is no reporting function within the app if anything crops up for the user. [Find out more...](#)



MOTIVATION & POSITIVITY



Online Safety UK



PEOPLE PRETEND TO BE SOMEONE THEY ARE NOT ONLINE SOMETIMES.

DO YOU FEEL UNSURE ABOUT SOMEONE?

ASK AN ADULT FOR ADVICE!



A friends list full of strangers can be dangerous.

Keep the number of people on your friends list low, to just your friends in real life.

STOP - BLOCK - REPORT



“No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness, and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure.”

-EMMA GOLDMAN
#MondayMotivation



“

“The best teachers are those who show you where to look but don't tell you what to see.”

-ALEXANDRA K. TRENFOR
#MondayMotivation



The Face Of Online Safety



FACTS

NEW USEFUL GUIDES

Every month we produce new guides and blogs about important topics. Take a look at these five for this month.



Digital Wellbeing



YouCAM
Makeup



Rocket League



Secret
Calculator



Player Unknown
Battlegrounds

THE FIRST FINDINGS FROM THE ONLINE SAFETY UK SURVEY 2022

A massive thank you to every child, parent, carer, teacher, support assistant, senior leader and other professionals for making our survey a hit this year! With more than 10,000 responses we've been left in awe of your dedication to finding the information you need, your honesty in your responses and your contribution to making the online world a safer place to us all.



10,000+
Responses

The biggest
OS Survey in
8 Years

Childs
Voice
Obtained



42% OF CHILDREN SAY THEY USE THEIR DEVICES "TOO MUCH" BECAUSE THEY'RE BORED

For the first time, we are getting a glimpse into what the children truly think about their habits, experiences and influence from people on the internet as well as their parents and carers at home. The first one is the reasons for why children feel they spend so much on screens, and it's boredom!

What can you do?



Check in with your child(ren) to see if you can set them tasks, remind them of something they said they wanted to do, ask them to help you with something etc. A lot of this could just need them to have a small break and they won't return for a while to their screen.

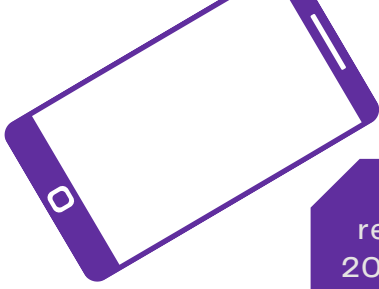


You will know your child best, but sometimes they may need hard boundaries put in place by the way of "screen time" rules where phones / tablets / consoles turn off after a set amount of time, or after a particular time. You can do all of this for free and it's easier to setup than you think.



It's no secret our children copy our habits, so what are your habits like? Do you spend a lot of time on a screen when around your children? Sometimes it's unavoidable, but it could be a good opportunity to try to reduce it together as a family by doing something collectively that takes you away from screens.

ONLINE CRAZES



"Huggy Wuggy" as he's called has made a resurgence onto the internet after appearing in 2021. He can be seen in Virtual Reality, Rec Room, TikTok, YouTube & Roblox and his menacing features are causing a stir. There are reports of songs talking about hugging "until your last breath" although we can't find evidence of these right now



Please see some simple and easy advice below.



"Raising awareness is extremely important as part of the protection process for Online Safety UK. Often, we don't often send out directed "alerts" as we feel this often makes the situation worse, not better. Unfortunately our hand has been forced by mainstream media and Police Forces publishing this issue. I will be very clear, many children would have been playing games involving this character for almost 12 months and most will not be too bothered by him but when new crazes arise, sometimes the need to produce shocking material can mean kids will get scared of some of the newer content."

Some Easy Advice



DO NOT ask you your children directly "Have you heard of Huggy Wuggy?" if they've given you no indication that they have.



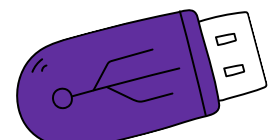
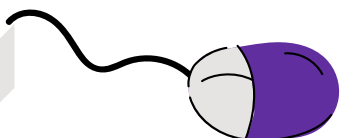
DO use this as a chance to have a conversation about what they see online and explore how things make them feel.



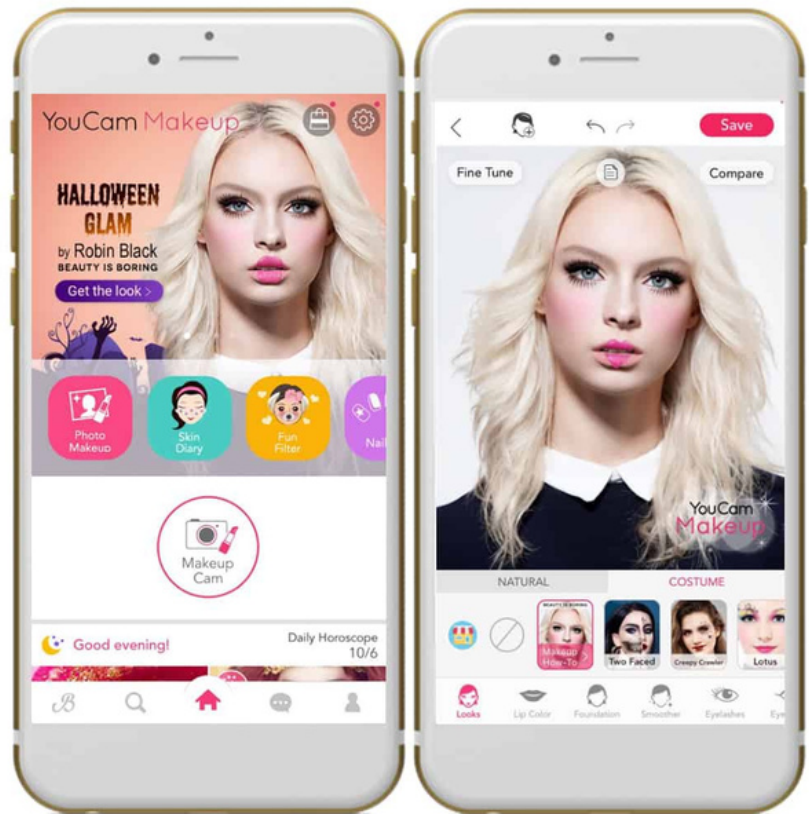
DO NOT search for the videos yourself on any device OR account that your child(ren) also use. The way the algorithm works will mean your children would begin to get suggested videos about what you search for.



DO block videos that you feel aren't appropriate for your child. The algorithm will recognise this and stop suggesting similar videos after a short period of time.



YouCAM Makeup



What is it?

Free to download on any device and an **age rating of 9+**, the app has a feature you wouldn't expect, which is a chat function between users.

The aim is to use the camera on your device and 'glam yourself up' using real life products on yourself virtually, effectively like you are trialling your style using products available to buy off the shelf or online.

Influenced by brands, creators and YouTubers this has massively grown in popularity, particularly in girls aged between 9 & 15 in the last 6 weeks, we've seen **2,100 clicks** on our website about this one app, in four weeks.

Should I be worried?

It's worth noting you can speak to other users within the app and there is NO reporting function within this feature to report users, abuse or inappropriate behaviour.

Also, the app heavily promotes in-app purchases to enhance how you look and without them, you often don't look as good as the other users that you see.

FREE VIRTUAL PARENT EVENT



**FRIDAY 10TH
JUNE - 19:30 GMT**



What children said in our Online Safety Survey

Get to know more about what children said in our survey conducted over the last few months.

We have some brilliant information arising which we'd love to share with all the parents who participated plus those who are interested to find out more.

**BOOK YOUR FREE
SLOT NOW**

CAN'T MAKE IT?

YOUR BOOKING WILL SECURE YOU A RECORDING OF THE EVENT, IN CASE YOU MISS IT OR CAN'T MAKE IT.