

What are the risks for children and young people when using the internet and digital technology?

1) Inappropriate Images

For example exposure to;

- Sexual images
- Violent or abusive scenes
- Fetish / sadistic clips
- Death
- Criticism or pushing religious/cultural boundaries
- What may cause harm to a child

2) Cyber bullying

Cyber bullying is bullying which happens through technologies, such as the internet. This could include threatening messages, malicious posts or comments and sharing embarrassing or inappropriate photos or videos.

How common is cyber-bullying

- Bullying one of main reasons for contacting ChildLine, 30,387 counselling sessions in 2012-13
- Bullying pages on site visited 291,000 times.
- Depending on the source between 8% and 34% of children and young people in the UK have been cyberbullied, and girls are twice as likely to experience persistent cyberbullying than boys.
- Children are more vulnerable to cyber bullying during the summer as nearly a quarter (23%) of 12-16 year olds spend more than 5 hours a day online during the holidays.

3) Online Grooming/meeting strangers

- Using own or different identities
- Encouraging child to post sexual images of themselves
- Showing child sexually explicit material
- Encouraging dis-inhibition of children
- Encouraging the exchange of personal information by gaining trust and boosting confidence
- De-sensitising and identity
- Targeting young people with sexualised screen names

Signs and Indicators of Online Solicitation (Grooming)

- Vague talk of a new friend but offering no further information.
- Spending increasing amounts of time talking secretly with the new friend online.
- Not wanting to be alone with a particular adult or young person.
- Sudden, unexplained personality changes & mood swings.
- Outbursts of anger and irritation.
- Self-harm.
- Using own or different identities
- Encouraging child to post sexual images of themselves
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Stop It Now 2011

4) Sexting

Sexting is the sending of sexually explicit language, images, including photographs and video by Text (SMS), email or much more commonly, now usually using smartphone technology (iPhone, Samsung Galaxy etc.)

- Mobile technologies allow children to express themselves
- Self-taken material has been identified as causing harm
- Different reasons why self-posting (need to individually assess)
- Until cases are investigated – reasons often not clear
- Adults should consider no blame approach when responding to situation

Information from Childline

- 60 per cent of the young people questioned said they had been asked for a sexual image or video of themselves.
- 40 per cent said they had created an image or video of themselves.
- ¼ of all those questioned saying they had sent the image or video to someone else.

Useful links:

Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) www.ceop.police.uk

Thinkuknow half day training is a free introductory session to the topic of internet safety and the thinkuknow resources. Having attended this session, delegates gain access to ALL resources (many are available without training through the website) for children and young people.

Ambassadors training is a paid event costing £199. This training session is a detailed look at sexual offending online and runs a series of interactive breakout sessions with the audience, looking at how to deal with a series of incidences, such as 'Sexting'.

Having attended this event, the delegates are given access to not only the resources for children and young people, but practitioners. Meaning that only one person would need to attend from an organisation and they could train their colleagues upon their return.

To sign up you need to visit – www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers/training. If you have any issues they can email CEOP at education@ceop.gov.uk.

The Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum (NIABF) brings together over 20 organisations, all committed to tackling bullying of children and young people in our schools and communities. NIABF supports schools and other organisations in the development of effective anti-bullying policy and practice, including coordinating Anti-Bullying Week in Northern Ireland each November. For more information visit www.endbullying.org.uk or contact Lee Kane (Regional Anti-Bullying Coordinator) on leekane@niabf.org.uk

UK safer Internet Centre www.saferinternet.org.uk
helpline@saferinternet.org.uk Tel: 0844 3814772

Childnet www.childnet.com

Beat Bullying www.beatbullying.org

Online Compass www.OnlineCompass.org.uk

Childline www.childline.org.uk Tel: 0800 1111

NSPCC www.nspcc.org.uk Tel: 0808 800 5000

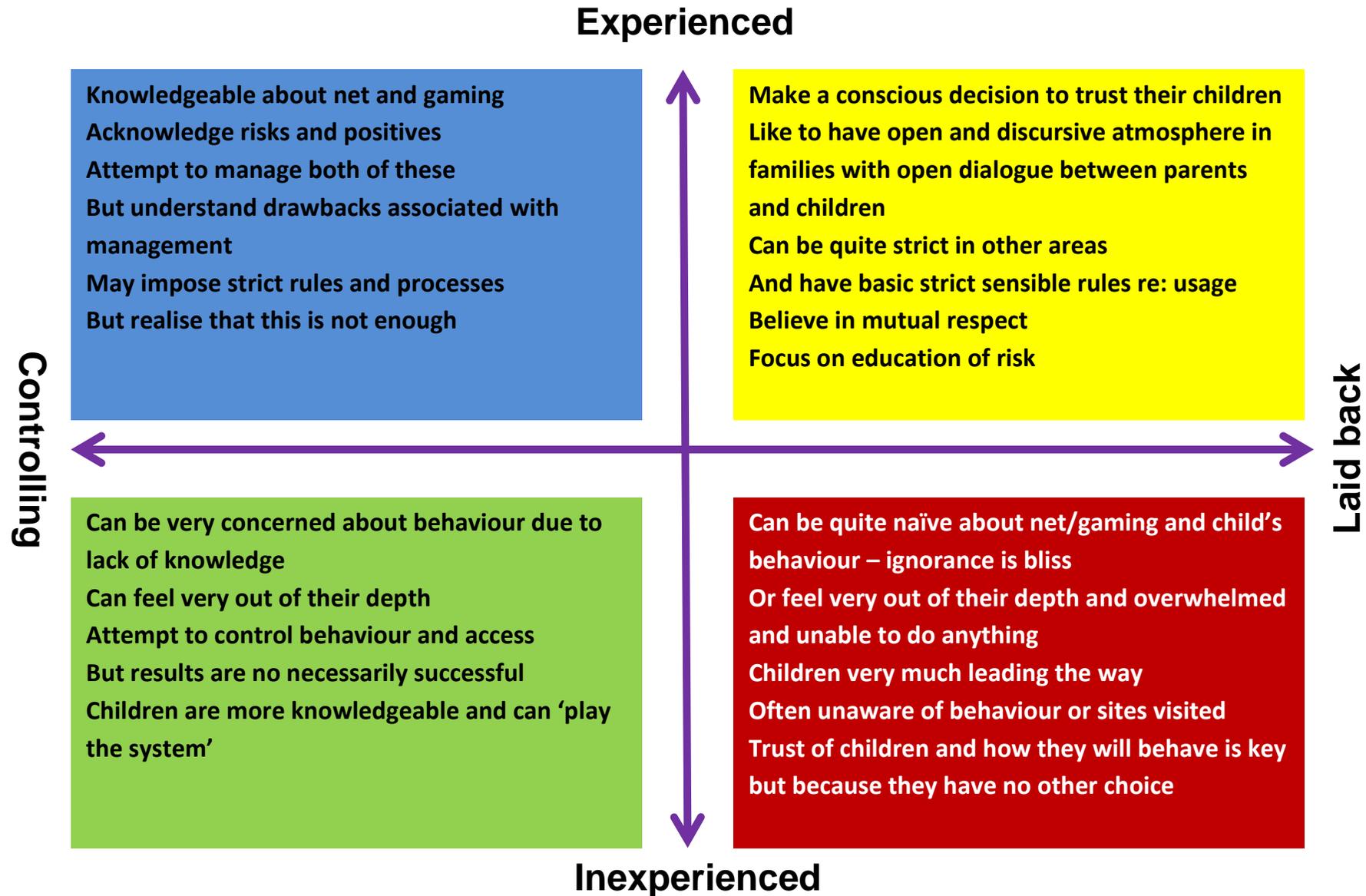
INEQE Safe and Secure www.ineqe.com Tel +44 (0) 28 90 232 060

Child Protection in Sport Unit Contact Paul Stephenson 0203 222 4246 pstephenson@nspcc.org.uk
Advice on social media; <https://thecpsu.org.uk/resource-library/?topic=1104>

		Content: Child as recipient	Contact: Child as participant	Conduct: Child as actor
Opportunities	Education Learning and digital literacy	Educational resources	Contact with others who share one's interest	Self-initiated or collaborative learning
	Participation and civic engagement	Global information	Exchange among interest groups	Concrete forms of civic engagement
	Creativity and self-expression	Diversity of resources	Being invited/inspired to create or participate	User-generated content creation
	Identity and social connection	Advice (personal/health/sexual, etc.)	Social networking, shared experiences with each other	Expression of Identity

		Content: Child as recipient	Contact: Child as participant	Conduct: Child as actor
RISKS	Commercial	Adverts Spam Sponsorship Personal Info	Tracking Harvesting Personal Info	Illegal downloading Hacking Gambling Financial Scams Terrorism
	Aggressive	Violent/hateful content	Being bullied, harassed or stalked	Bullying or harassing another
	Sexual	Pornographic or unwelcome sexual content	Meeting Strangers Being groomed	Creating and uploading inappropriate material
	Values	Bias Racist Misleading info or advice	Self-harm Unwelcome persuasions	Providing misleading info/advice

Experience of technology determines the effectiveness of online parenting



Three Strategic Objectives for Child Internet Safety

Objective 1: Reduce Availability	Reduce the availability of harmful and inappropriate content, the prevalence of harmful and inappropriate contact, and the conduciveness of platforms to harmful and inappropriate conduct
Objective 2: Restrict Access	Equip children and their parents to effectively manage access to harmful and inappropriate content, avoid incidences of harmful and inappropriate contact, and reduce harmful and inappropriate conduct
Objective 3: Increase Resilience	Equip children to deal with exposure to harm and inappropriate content and contact, and equip parents to help their children deal with these things and parent effectively around incidences of harmful and inappropriate contact by their children.

Bryon Review (2008)

Safety Messages for Children & Young People

S - SAFE	Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your name, email, phone number, home address, or school name – to people who you don't trust online.
M - MEETING	Meeting people you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents'/carers' permissions and when they can be present.
A - ACCEPTING	Accepting emails, IM messages or opening files from people you don't know or trust can get you into trouble – they may contain viruses or nasty messages.
R – RELIABLE	Someone online may be lying about who they are, and information you find on the internet may not be reliable.
T - TELL	Tell your parent, carer, or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable.