Unwanted contact

Any type of online communication that makes a child or young person feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Unwanted contact should be taken seriously. In some circumstances it can lead to online grooming, child abuse and other harmful behaviour.

Breaches of personal data and information

Children and young people may provide others their personal information unintentionally. Children may also share information where they do not understand the risks involved.

Examples include:

- Providing their personal details and photographs for online competitions and activities.
- Hidden data attached to photographs.
- Social media apps disclosing the location of the person using the app.

Financial risks

Children and young people may become financially active online before they have developed an understanding of money, budgeting and credit. This may expose them and their family to financial and security risks.

Children and young people may access restricted gambling and online gaming sites. Sites may encourage, prompt or trick children and young people to engage in financial transactions.

Nudes and sexting

Some young people exchange nude, nearly nude or sexual pictures or videos. They may also exchange sexual messages. This usually occurs in a relationship with a friend or peer. One or both young people may (change 0009⊠BDddarly)21al3 cte slessf⊠cb 0mo .633 T2ursS⊠Td⊠it. Th1 Tf0 -1.91 e exchange nud

Conversation starters about online safety

Conversations with your child about online safety are an important way of keeping them safe. Start early, before there is a problem. Do this in ways which are appropriate for your child's age and stage of development.

Use these starters to help get the conversation going:

Early years — 7 years

- How do you get help if something goes wrong?
- Why is it important to be kind online?
- What makes you feel sad, worried, uncomfortable or frightened online?
- Do you know what your personal information is (for example, name, address, birthday, age, location). Who can have this information and why?

7 — 11 years

- What information should you keep private and why?
- Can you use technology to help keep your information private?
- Is there a difference in knowing someone online and someone in-person?
- How do you know what you see and read on the internet is real or true?

11-14 years

- How do you help someone who is having a difficult time online?
- Have you ever heard the term 'nudes'? Tell me about this.
- Tell me about cyberbullying. Has this ever happened to you or someone you know?
- How might your online reputation affect your future?

14 years and over

- Can you spot 'fake news' and online advertising?
- What do you do when someone