KEEPING CHILDREN SAFER ONLINE

A guide for parents: tools, upcoming government changes and where to get help if things go wrong online.

PARENTAL CONTROL AND SAFETY APPS

APPLE SCREEN TIME

(iPhone, free)

- See app usage.
- Set limits, downtime and restrictions (e.g. block apps).
- Cannot read Snapchat messages or photos.

QUSTODIO

(iPhone/Android, paid options)

- App activity reports (e.g. which apps are used and for how long).
- Some alerts about concerning messages (e.g. possible bullying or harmful content).
- Does NOT read Snapchat chats/ photos on iPhone.

SNAPCHAT FAMILY CENTRE

(iPhone/Android, free)

- Shows who the child has recently chatted with on Snapchat (e.g. friends and contacts).
- Does not show the contents of conversations or any images.
- Child must accept your connection.

AIRDROID PARENTAL CONTROL

(Android child's phone, paid)

- Live screen mirroring of what is currently on the Android screen (subject to permissions).
- No equivalent remote live monitoring for iPhone (due to Apple security restrictions).

KIDS360

(iPhone/Android, (free + paid options)

- Screen time limits and app blocking.
- App usage reports and location tracking.
- Can reward tasks with extra screen time.
- Does NOT read Snapchat messages or photos.

UK GOVERNMENT: PROPOSED SOCIAL MEDIA CHANGES

NOT YET IN FORCE



- Expected **spring 2027**; exact rules and implementation date still to be finalised.
- **Under-16 social media restriction** expected to include Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Facebook and X; final scope not settled.
- WhatsApp and Signal messaging are **not intended** to be included.
- Stronger age checks, restrictions on livestreaming and contact from strangers.
- **For 16–17s:** planned default midnight–6am curfew and controls on addictive feeds (e.g. less personalisation and autoplay).

WHERE TO REPORT ONLINE HARM AND GET HELP

CEOP SAFETY CENTRE

ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre

Report suspected online child sexual abuse, exploitation or grooming.

For child protection and serious online harm.

REPORT REMOVE (CHILDLINE + IWF)

childline.org.uk/remove

For under-18s to report nude or sexual images or videos of themselves and request removal.

Cannot remove private phone copies or encrypted chats; removal not guaranteed.

TAKE IT DOWN

takeitdown.ncmec.org

Helps prevent intimate images taken before age 18 from spreading online on participating platforms.

A free, confidential service for under-18s.

If a child is in immediate danger, call 999.

No parental control app can show everything. Talk regularly with children about online safety, respect, consent and what to do if something feels wrong.