Online Safety 4 Schools

Online Safety 4 Schools

Online Safety Awareness For Foster Carers - 2025

PRIMARY & SECONDARY
ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOL
JONATHAN TAYLOR
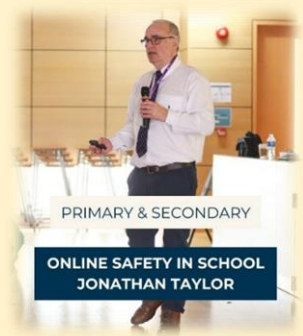
Author: Jonathan Taylor MSc – Social Media & Online Safety Consultant

Purpose: To provide Foster Carers with essential insights and guidance on digital risks, responsible technology use, and safeguarding strategies.

1. New Risks in the Digital Age

Focus on threats from AI, Virtual Reality, and self-generated content (SGIs). Shift from traditional dangers to modern digital exploitation.

2. Common Online Dangers

Cyberflashing, grooming, sextortion, incel culture, scams, deepfakes, online gaming risks, and AI misuse.

3. Online Safety Act 2024

Regulates platforms like Meta, TikTok, and Snapchat. Enforces age restrictions, content removal, and accountability. Sanctions include heavy fines and legal action.

4. Online Usage & Devices

Discussion of pre-internet to immersive VR world. Emphasis on social media, messaging, gaming, and devices as access points to risk.

5. Mobile Phones by Age

Age-appropriate phone use:
0–10: no phone unless for care/safety
11–13: brick phones
13–14: limited smartphone access
14–16: supervised full access

6. Safety Spectrum & Online Competence

Behaviour types from Acceptable to Illegal. Online competence means using tech responsibly and with understanding—not just access.

7. Role of Parental Involvement

Online resilience is built through trusted adult involvement, modelling, support, and honest conversations.

8. Grooming & App Awareness

Predators exploit platforms with chat/video features. Parents should know app features: messaging, live streaming, GPS, and age limits.

Stranger Danger

9. Self-Generated Content & Sexting

Sharp rise in underage content shared via webcam or livestream. Mostly involves girls aged 11–13. Digital Footprint is permanent.

10. Online Challenges & Peer Pressure

Examples: Blue Whale, Momo, Skull Breaker. These prey on vulnerable children seeking social validation online.

11. Respectful Behaviour & Digital Permanence

Digital actions leave permanent marks. Unkind group chats, bullying, and inappropriate content sharing can have lasting effects. ***Joint Enterprise and being Guilty by Association***

12. Misogyny, InCel Culture & Influencers

Online misogyny driven by figures like Andrew Tate. Harmful ideologies are spreading in youth spaces, influencing identity and respect.

13. Technology as a Double-Edged Sword

Algorithms can promote harmful content. Students must be taught media literacy and how to evaluate what they see online.

14. Sextortion, Deepfakes & AI Abuse

Blackmail using explicit real/fake images. Offenders use apps and bots to exploit kids quickly. Most victims are boys aged 14–18.
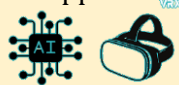
15. Trusted Adults & Safety Advice

Teach kids to recognize abuse, ask for help, understand pressure, and use reporting tools. Support them without fear or shame.

16. Positive Digital Identity

Encourage children to build a healthy online presence. Every post, like, and comment contributes to their digital 'tattoo'.

17. Parental Takeaways

Stay involved, ask questions, supervise screen time, model safe behaviour, and foster open dialogue.