



ISSUE 9 • NOVEMBER 2024

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

KEY KCSIE CHANGES FOR 2024-25

As we enter a new academic year, there are some key changes within Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) that we need to be aware of:

Revised definition of Safeguarding. The definition now includes “Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge” and “Protecting children from maltreatment at home, whether that's within or outside the home, including online.”

Early Help has been broadened to include a wider range of concerns:

- Frequently go missing from education, home or care.
- Have experienced multiple suspensions or are at risk of permanent exclusion.
- Have a parent or carer in custody or are affected by parental offending.

The **definition of abuse has expanded** to highlight that witnessing the ill-treatment of others, such as domestic abuse, is harmful to children.

The term 'deliberately missing education' has now been replaced with '**unexplainable and/or persistent absences from education**'.

Sections still under review - 'Preventing Radicalisation' and 'Supporting Children who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Questioning their Gender'.



CLICK ON THE IMAGE TO THE LEFT TO ACCESS THE FULL KCSIE 2024 DOCUMENT, OR SCAN THE QR CODE IF READING A PRINT VERSION



This directory is full of free local support services that are designed to help children and young people overcome life challenges and to support any mental health issues they may have.

The directory can help you find the right support for you.

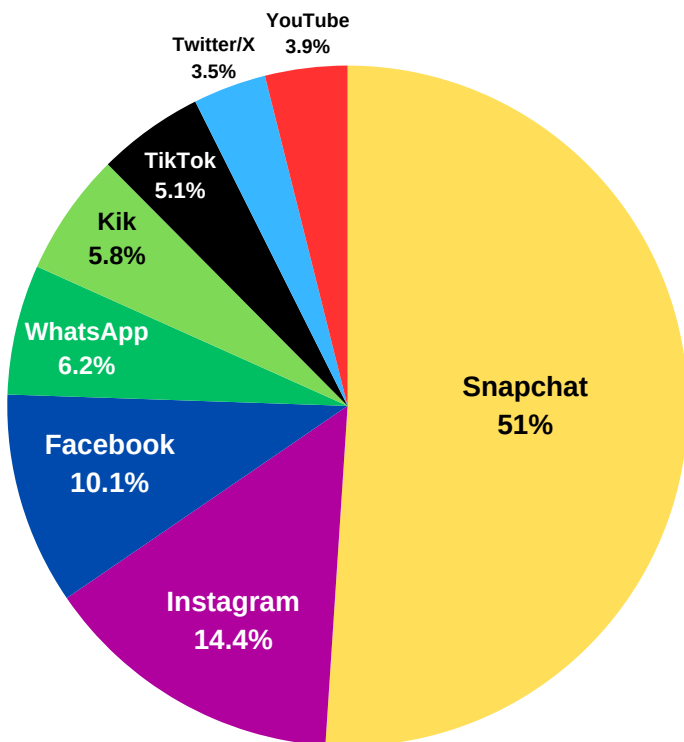


Scan the QR code to access the directory or click on the image to the right.



THINK YOU KNOW WHAT CHILDREN DO ONLINE?

From an NSPCC Freedom of Information Act request to police forces in England and Wales, 35 forces provided useable data for 2022/23. There was a total of 33,226 obscene publication offences recorded. Police disclosed the social media sites used in child abuse image offences in 9,876 instances. Below shows the proportion of offences committed on each of the most popular social media platforms.



The internet is increasingly becoming a part of children's lives. The latest research from Ofcom (2024) estimates that **84% of 3- to 4-year-olds** in the UK are going online. The proportion **rises to 100% for children aged 12-years-old and over.**

- **19%** of children, aged 10-15-years-old, exchanged messages with someone online who they never met offline in the last year
- **Over 9,000** child sexual abuse offences involved an online element in 2022/23
- **Around a sixth of people** that experienced online harassment offences were under 18-years-old
- Under 18-year-olds were the subject of **around a quarter** of reported offences of online blackmail in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Visit NSPCC Learning for more information and resources about responding to online abuse: learning.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety/responding-to-online-abuse

Using AI ChatBots for Good

You've probably heard of ChatGPT, the wonder AI chatbot. From writing poems to C.U.s, it seems there's nothing this artificial intelligence can't create! That does, unfortunately, include homework.

ChatGPT's terms of services says users must be least 13 years old and those under 18 must have their parent or legal guardian's permission. However, between the press coverage and the lack of age verification, it's likely that many young people are using it regardless.

But is it *really* helping with homework? Here are some points to consider if the young person in your care wants to use an AI chatbot.



SOMETIMES AI CHATBOTS ARE WRONG!

This means if someone is relying on them for facts, they might be wrong too. And it might become obvious that they've used AI to complete their work.



CHATBOTS AREN'T ALWAYS UP TO DATE.

ChatGPT knows about the world up until 2021, after that its knowledge is limited.



CHATBOTS ARE BANNED IN SOME PLACES.

If a young person is using chatbots but their school has banned it, they might have to face the consequences of breaking the rules.



EVERY VOICE IS UNIQUE.

Although you can ask a chatbot to create text in a certain way, it's incredibly unlikely that it will sound identical to the user... and even if a young person doesn't think they have a writing style, you can bet their teachers do!



CHATBOTS AREN'T ALWAYS SHORTCUTS

By the time you're finished fact-checking and editing the grammar, you may as well have written it yourself!

Alternative ideas for using AI together

PRACTICE FACT CHECKING

Knowing how to fact check is a very useful skill, both for school and for everyday life. Ask ChatGPT for facts then check them together by Googling, in the news and even in good old-fashioned books!

Being able to tell fact from fiction will also help you and the young person in your care spot fake news and misinformation on social media.

USE CHATGPT TO INSPIRE

Instead of making the chatbot do all the work, use it for prompting ideas. For example, you can give an example of your favourite novel and ask for recommendations of similar books you might enjoy.

I am 14 years old. My favourite book is the Hobbit. Can you suggest three novels I might like?

Sure, here are three book suggestions you might enjoy based on your love of The Hobbit:

1. Eragon by Christopher Paolini ...

MASTER THE SKILL OF EDITING

The text produced by AI chatbots usually needs a lot of changing. Practising editing text for spelling, grammar and comprehension could help improve schoolwork.

LEARN ABOUT AI

There's no denying that artificial intelligence like chatbots can be fascinating. How does it learn information? Who made it? Researching this together could even inspire a future career in AI!

STAYING SAFE WHEN USING AI

Make sure the young person in your care knows who their trusted adults are and that they can talk to them if they see something that upsets or worries them online.

Harmful, unhelpful and untrue answers on ChatGPT can be reported by selecting the 'thumbs down' button beside the answer.

Some young people have been using AI for mental health advice. Talk to the young person in your care about what to do if they're feeling depressed, stressed, or upset.

For young people, using AI as a way to get out of homework might be very tempting. If you know the young person in your care is using AI chatbots, talk to them about the *possible risks, age limits* and alternative ways you can use AI chatbots together as a *force for good*.

