



Exposure to online pornography and violent material from a young age can lead a child to seek out more extreme content, including images of children who are being sexually abused. Police nationally are seeing a rise in this activity.

This year, Northumbria Police have investigated 66 teenagers for possessing and sharing images of children who were being sexually abused. Some of these teenagers said they had been exposed to online pornography and violent material when they were very young. We would like your help in minimising children's exposure to this kind of material.

To do this, you can find out more by visiting the following websites:

[Using Parental Controls](#)

[Online Pornography - How to keep your child safe](#)

[Talking to your child about online porn](#)

If your child has already been exposed to content such as online pornography, the following weblink is useful:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/inappropriate-explicit-content/>

If you have come across material online such as indecent images of children, this weblink describes what you can do to report it:

[Dealing with inappropriate content](#)

If you find sexual images of children stored on a device, do not delete them and make a report to the police by calling 999 if you believe a child is in immediate danger.

Alternatively, dial 101 or use our online reporting form:

[Report an incident - Northumbria Police](#)



SnapChat - Advice for Parents

[Introduction guide to SnapChat for parents](#)

[How to set parental controls & privacy settings](#)

Main issues for parents to be aware of:

- Snap Map displays your location on a map in real time. If your friends have opted into Snap Map, you can see their locations, too. (You can turn this off or use it in Ghost Mode, which allows you to see the map but not be seen by others.) The risk here is having your location seen by all of your friends (including Snapchat contacts who may not be real friends).
- Students can be added to a chat automatically without granting permission.



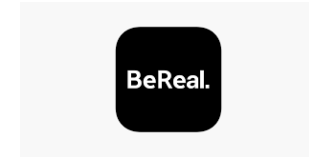
[TikTok Parental Control & Privacy Settings](#)

[Is Tik Tok safe?](#)

[Tik Tok Parent Guide](#)

Main issues for parents to be aware of:

- By default, all accounts are public so anyone on the app can see what your child shares. However, only approved followers can send them messages.
- Users can like or react to a video, follow an account or send messages to each other, so there is the risk that strangers will be able to directly contact children on the app.
- Children may be tempted to take risks to get more of a following or likes on a video so it's important to talk about what they share and with who.



[BeReal App - Introduction guide for parents](#)

Main things for parents to be aware of:

- Pictures are unmoderated & there are no parental controls.
- This app sets an alert and a time when a photo should be taken at any point throughout the day. This puts students at risk of being tempted to use phones during school, in contravention of our mobile phone ban.
- Photos use the front and back camera: although the user might point at one thing to photograph, the camera will also take a picture of the user themselves. It's important for young people to be aware of their surroundings to avoid posting anything they don't want online.
- Some people are photographed without their permission: scrolling through BeReal reveals images that users have taken that feature other people who may not be aware they are being photographed. This is an issue of consent that some young people might not consider.
- It's easy to connect with strangers: some young people may send or receive friend requests from strangers through the Discovery tab if they are sharing with everyone.