



June 2025 Online Safety Update



This month's Online Safety theme is "Cyber-flashing."

Cyber-flashing refers to the act of using Bluetooth technology to send indecent images—often explicit pictures of genitals—to anyone nearby with Bluetooth enabled. This can occur in public spaces, such as in a bus or supermarket queue. For the recipient, receiving such an image can be frightening, as they often cannot identify the sender, and the content may be shocking.

Similarly, it is common for strangers to send inappropriate images to children and young people through messaging platforms like WhatsApp, Instagram, or Snapchat. These unsolicited images can be unexpected and distressing. Both cyber-flashing and sending indecent images are illegal, especially when the recipient is a minor.

Here are some important tips to consider:

1. Discuss bodies, private parts, and the importance of consent with your child, encouraging them to share any uncomfortable experiences with you.
2. Block and report the sender on the social media platform. Look for the three dots or gear icon for instructions on how to do this.
3. Avoid deleting the image immediately, as it may be necessary for police investigations.
4. Report the incident to CEOP (Child Exploitation Online Prevention), a police section focused on combating online child abuse and grooming. Be sure to note the sender's username exactly as it appears, as this will help CEOP in their investigation. For example, if the username is Cu[)][)Ly B3ar, don't write 'Cuddly Bear.'

As always, if you have any concerns regarding your child's online safety or any other safeguarding issues, please feel free to reach out to the pastoral team at 0121 569 7080.

