

APRIL 2026 ONLINE SAFETY UPDATE

For this month's online safety update, our theme is: Online Misogyny

Online misogynistic content refers to material that promotes hatred, disrespect, or harmful stereotypes about women and girls. This can include videos, memes, forums, or social media posts that encourage harassment, objectification, or controlling behaviours. We often see a crossover with disinformation and conspiracy theories (for example, about the rates of women lying about sexual assault).

The “mansphere” is a collection of online communities where young men are exposed to extremist ideas about gender, often promoting hostility toward women and reinforcing rigid, harmful beliefs about masculinity and relationships.

Young people with additional needs may be more vulnerable to this content for several reasons. They might spend more time online due to social or mobility limitations, seeking connection, romantic relationships or social identity. They may have lower self-esteem due to societal ableism which means they may struggle with loneliness and have a need for friendship and a sense of belonging. Some may have difficulties recognising manipulation, questioning extreme viewpoints, or managing emotional responses to provocative content. This can lead to distorted beliefs about relationships, low self-esteem, or engagement in unhealthy behaviours.

What to do:

- Remember that social media has been proven to “suggest” misogynistic content to teenage boys without them even needing to go and look for it - if your child has social media, it's important to closely monitor their usage, and who they follow.
- Teach critical thinking and reinforce respect, empathy, and healthy relationships online

Remember, the pastoral team are here to support you with any online safety concerns: call 0121 569 7089.

