

# SEPTEMBER 2025 ONLINE SAFETY UPDATE

For this first online safety update of the year, our theme is: Epilepsy Trolling.

You may have heard of this in the news as it has recently become a specific online crime. Epilepsy-trolling happens when someone deliberately targets someone online, who they know has epilepsy. The perpetrator will deliberately send the victim content (such as moving images, gifs and videos) that is likely to provoke an epileptic seizure. This is a particularly cruel and dangerous form of bullying and abuse, and we are pleased to see it is now being taken far more seriously.

Here are some online safety tips that can help to keep you and your child safe from this crime:

- Consider who you inform online that you/your child has epilepsy. Some high-profile epilepsy campaigners have been targeted by these trolls so it's worth ensuring you are not broadcasting this information to strangers who may not have good intentions.
- Ensure that your child does not have an online presence without your knowledge. Check their devices and be sure to discuss online safety with them.
- Talk to your child about the fact that epilepsy-trolling is a thing and not to open any messages or links from people they don't know.

What can we do? If you or someone you know has experienced epilepsy trolling, you can report to the police on 101 or via the West Midlands Police website's chat function. You can also report this via the social media platform's own reporting features - but you must still report it to the police.

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

