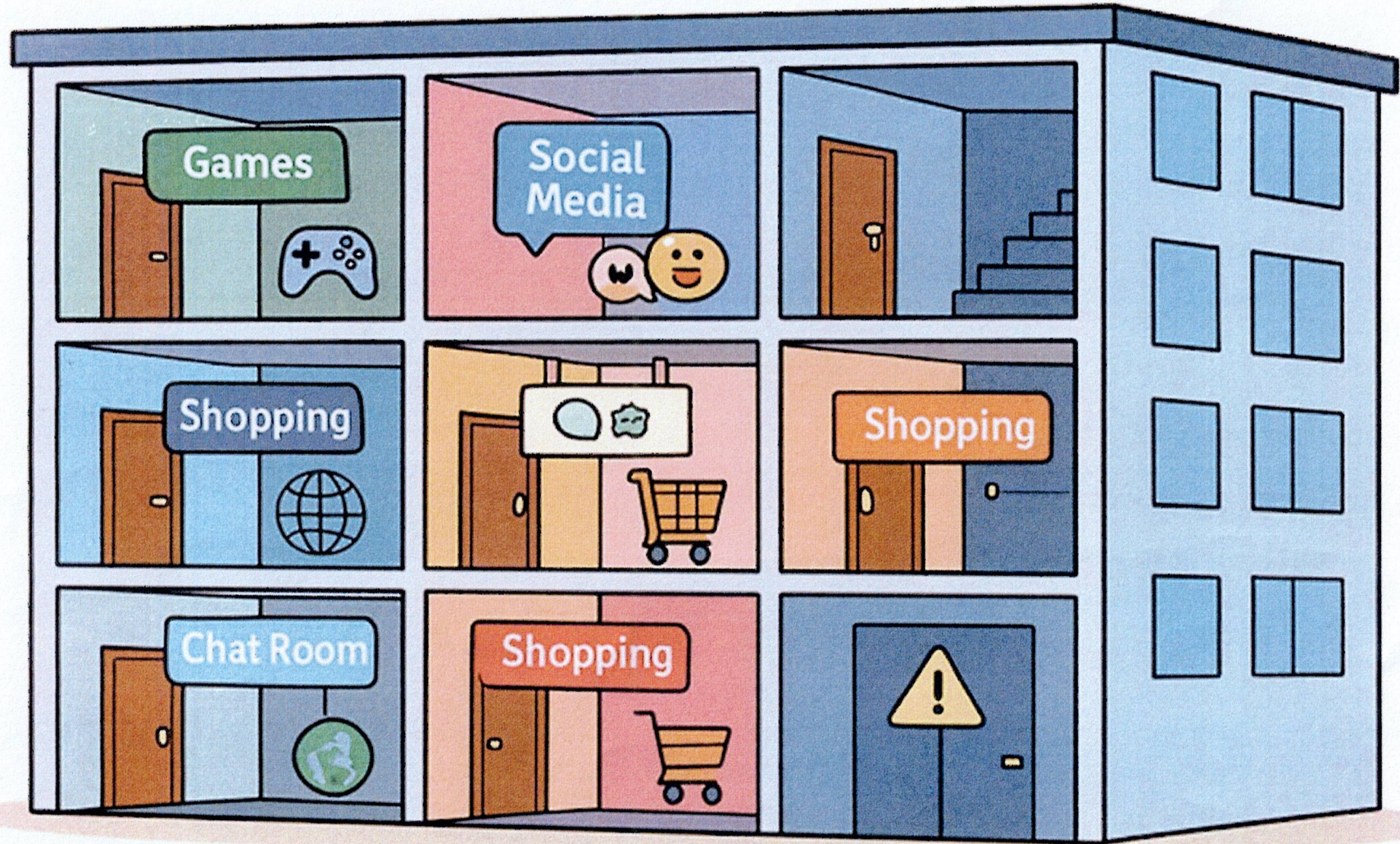


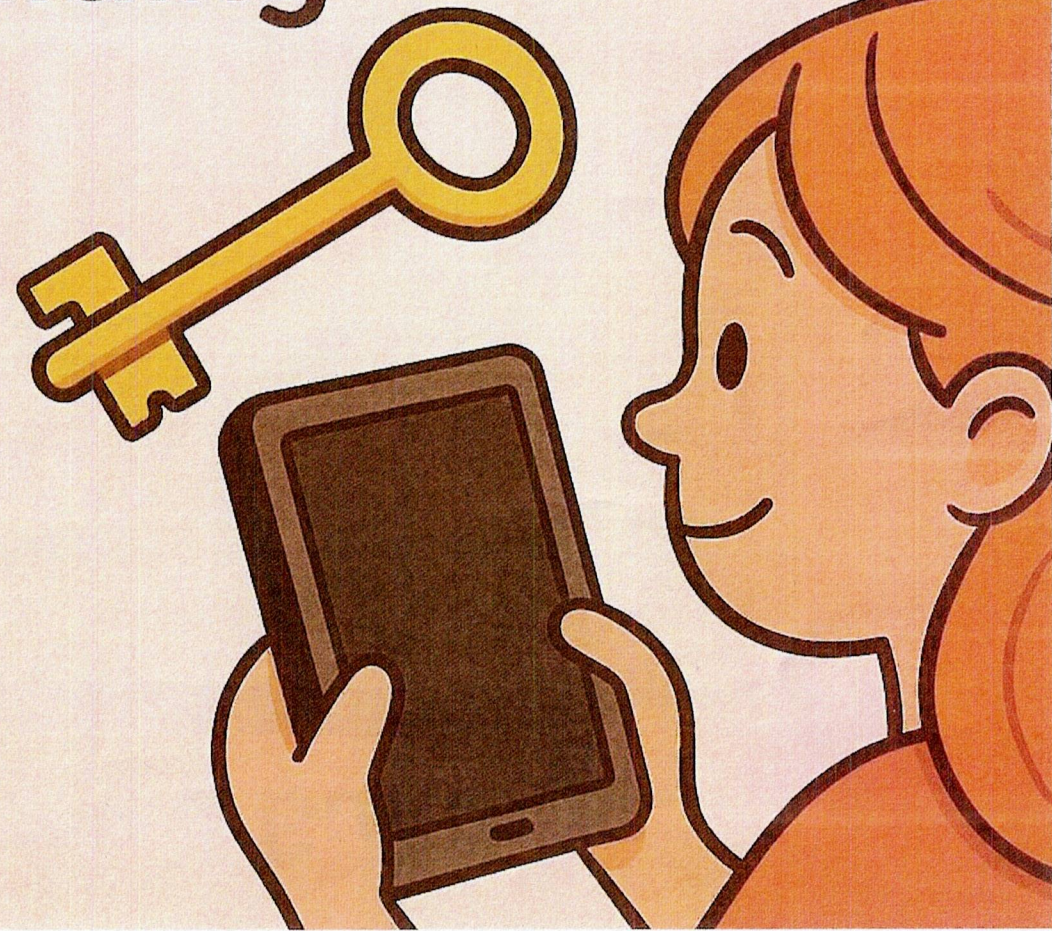


Safeguarding Children Online

If the Internet Were a Building...



**The device is the key to
that building**



Why do children use the internet?

Social Media

Online Gaming

School work

Video consumption is currently the most accessed content for children in the UK, similarly in many western countries.



What are the risks online?

Children's Online Behaviour

93% of 10 – 15 year olds go online daily

58% of children spend over 3 hours per day online

35% have accepted friend requests from people they don't know

8.5% have shared their location publicly in the last year

What are the risks? Online Grooming

Over 7,000 offences of sexual communication with a child recorded in 2023/24 (an 89% increase from 2017/18)

73% of cases involved Snapchat or Meta platforms

Child Abuse Imagery (CSAM)

Over 33,000 crimes involving child abuse imagery were recorded last year – a 25% increase on the previous year

Almost half of the incidents involved Snapchat, and 26% involved Meta Platforms

What are the risks? Online Grooming

Over 7,000 offences of sexual communication with a child recorded in 2023/24 (an 89% increase from 2017/18)

73% of cases involved Snapchat or Meta platforms

Cyberbullying

19% of children aged 10 – 15 experienced online bullying in 2020, around 764,000 children

Can include name calling, exclusion from groups and threats

Exposure to harmful content

In 2024 Ofcom reported that violence and graphic content is now seen as “unavoidable” by many children. It has become the norm.

Platforms where harmful content is encountered include Youtube, TikTok, Discord and Instagram

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Online risks continued....

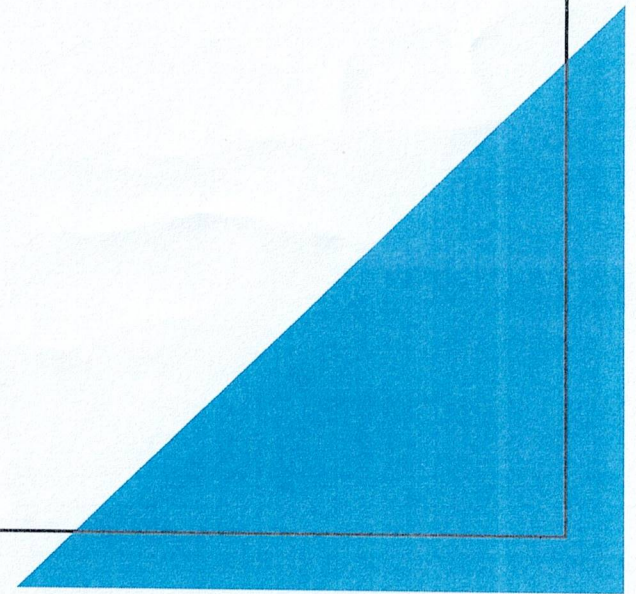
Radicalisation
and
extremism

Self-harm and
suicide
content

Criminal
Exploitation

Online Safety Act 2025

- Introduced regulations for tech companies
- Platforms must be designed with safety in mind
- Platforms have a duty to remove harmful content as quickly as possible



FUTURE PROPOSALS

- .Requirement of age verification
- .Effective content moderation
- .Individual risk assessments for platforms

Parent and carer strategies



Talk regularly about
online experiences



Set clear rules and
screen time limits



Use parental controls,
privacy settings and
review digital footprints



Report harmful content



Resources

- NSPCC
- Internet Matters www.internetmatters.org
- ThinkUKnow
www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents
- Childnet International
www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers
- UK Safer Internet Centre
<https://saferinternet.org.uk>
- Common Sense Media
www.common sense media.org
- National Online Safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com/guides
- Parent Zone www.parentzone.org.uk
- Report Harmful Content
<https://reportharmfulcontent.com>
- CEOP <https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting>