Online gaming and social media

Young people can see all kinds of things online via social media and through online games. The popularity of online gaming has given extremists more opportunity to make their narrative sound more mainstream and reach out and radicalise others. What usually starts off as conversations on mainstream platforms can quickly escalate when the person being targeted is invited into closed groups, chatrooms and forums.

Tips on how to stay safe online:

○ Have a conversation with your child about the potential dangers of being invited into closed groups or chatrooms.

○ Talk to your child about who they are connecting with online. People and situations online are not always what they might at first seem to be.

○ Talk to your child about how radicalisers search tweets, chatroom forums and social media profiles and posts to identify people who may be vulnerable.

What information is being shared online?

Games are a great way to make friends online, but are they sharing too much personal information?

Choose a safe username

Make sure usernames doesn't include their full name, date of birth, address or mobile number.

Who are they playing with?

Online gaming can allow users to play with friends and strangers from around the world. Remember people might not always be honest about who they are.

Explore online together

Sit down with your child and learn about what websites and apps they like. Are they viewing age appropriate content?

Check your privacy settings

Changing their privacy settings can affect who can see they are online and who they play with. If they download new apps, remind them to review and adjust privacy and safety settings. Check they know how to use privacy settings.

RADICALISATION AND THE INTERNET

Is your loved one safe online?

We are all using the internet more than ever before and so it's increasingly important to know what to look out for and how to protect our loved ones online.

The internet has opened up many new opportunities in communication, entertainment and knowledge. But it's also given extremists the means to target, connect and communicate with people vulnerable to radicalisation.

Anyone can be at risk of being radicalised regardless of their age, but teenagers and young people can sometimes be at greater risk. Radicalisers are very good at identifying people's anxieties and exploiting vulnerability. They will offer them a new narrative or a way out from how they are feeling.

It's not easy to challenge a young person who wants their privacy – and your trust. But it's important to find out who they might be coming into contact with online. Having a conversation about online radicalisation and extremism early and often is vital. It's important to engage with your loved one about the dangers of the internet and have ongoing conversations.

Be vigilant

Have a conversation about what they are using and who they are talking to online

Check content is appropriate

Don't give out personal information

Use parental controls

Spot the signs of online radicalisation

- **Are they becoming increasingly intolerant to other people's views?**

- **Are they sharing and liking extremist posts on social media?**

- **Are they being secretive about who they are talking to online?**

- **Are they reading, posting, watching or sharing hateful or extreme content and links?**

- **Do they appear to be expressing someone else's views?**

Please visit the websites in the *'advice and support'* section for more information about staying safe online.

ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Act Early
actearly.uk

Internet Matters
internetmatters.org

Safer Internet
saferinternet.org.uk

Parent Zone
parentzone.org.uk

Think You Know
thinkuknow.co.uk