Online Safety: Understanding Risk, Harm and Effective Support

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PDF



SCOLT - Online safety is safeguarding

Platforms identified in child exploitation referrals

2026 data is year-to-date

709
referrals in 2025
full calendar year

504
referrals in 2026
1 Jan to 14 Oct

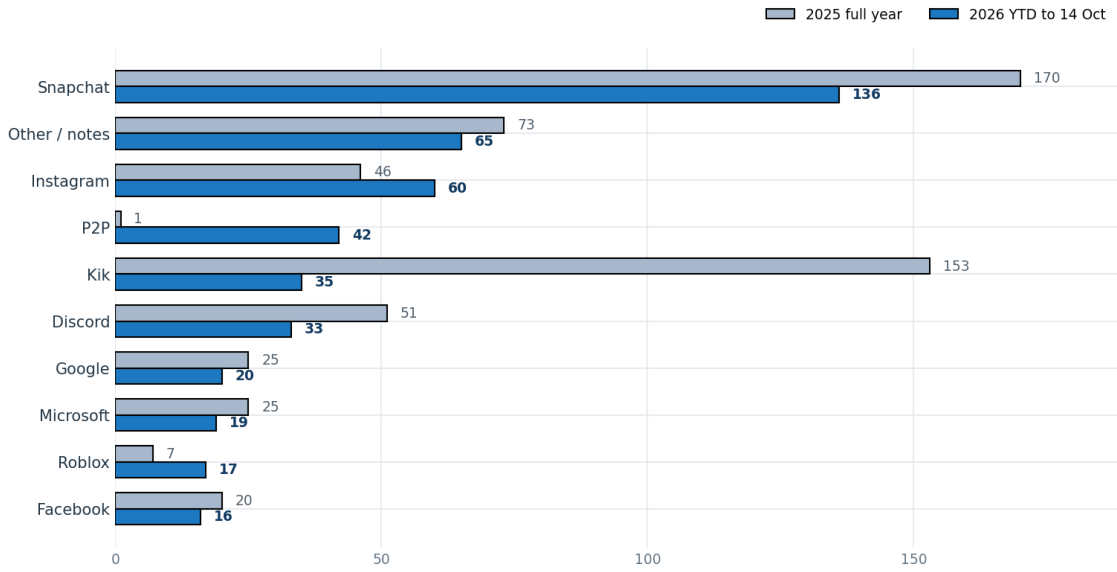
71%
of 2025 total
already recorded in 2026

The safeguarding message

Risk moves across mainstream, private and emerging services.

Where referrals were linked

Top 10 platform/app categories by 2026 count



Counts show referrals in which a platform/app was recorded..

What the data tells us

Snapchat remains the largest named category

136 referrals in 2026 YTD.

Patterns can change quickly

Instagram: 46 → 60; P2P: 1 → 42.

No single platform defines the risk

20 app/platform categories appear in both dashboards.

For education and social care professionals

Recognise changes in online behaviour • **Ask** about apps and private messaging • **Act** through safeguarding procedures

Source: referral dashboard screenshots supplied • 2026 position to 14 October 2026

SCOLT - Online safety is safeguarding

Profile of 58 children identified within Norfolk

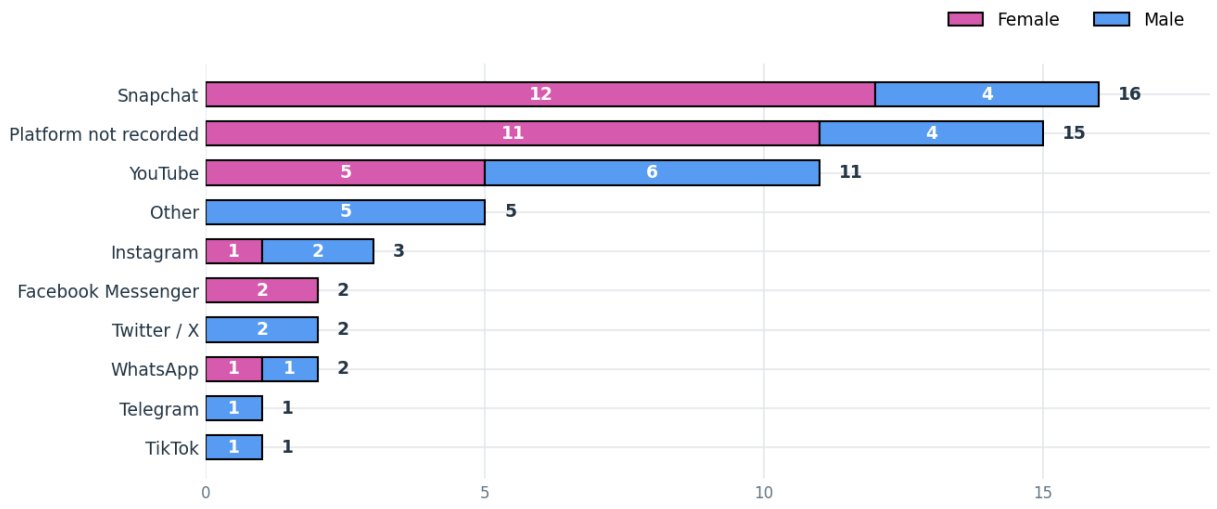
58	32	26	16
children identified	female	male	largest platform count
Norfolk cohort	55% of children	45% of children	Snapchat

Safeguarding message

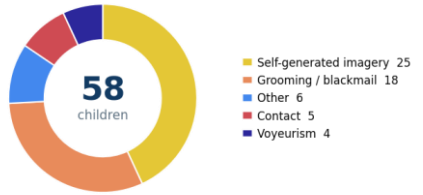
Children of different ages and sexes are affected across multiple platforms.

Sex of children by recorded platform

Labels inside bars show female and male counts; totals appear at bar ends.



Type of exploitation



Ages recorded on each platform

Snapchat	10–17	**Facebook Messenger**	14, 17
YouTube	4–10	**Twitter / X**	15, 17
Other	10, 16–17	**WhatsApp**	12, 14
Instagram	13–14	**Telegram**	15
		TikTok	5

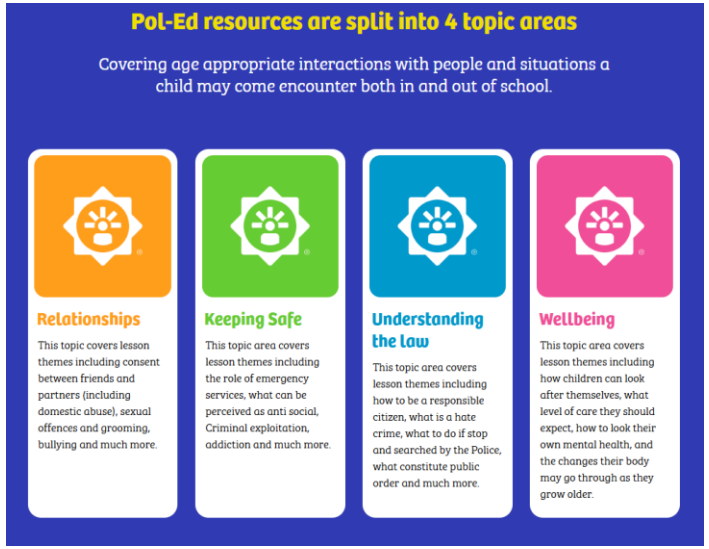
Age entries reproduce the supplied chart. “Not recorded” means no online platform was recorded.

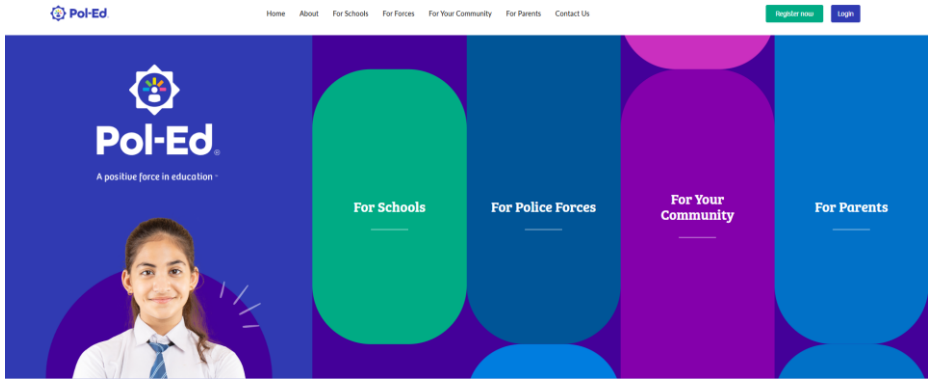
Platform and exploitation-type visuals are separate summaries. The supplied data does not cross-tabulate exploitation type by individual platform.

Source: supplied dashboard extracts

Pol-Ed support

Pol-Ed is an educational programme that Norfolk Constabulary have purchased to provide all police, schools and community groups with FREE lessons, assemblies and resources covering a range of topic areas which link to the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum.





Schools' usage

- Registered Schools – 57% primary and 96% secondary
- Number of lessons available – 260+
- Registered users - 326
- Number of lessons accessed since launch last year 5,076 delivered to 143,775. Top themes being delivered – safeguarding and behaviour, consent, discrimination

What is discrimination?	77	2106
How can we use our phones sensibly?	71	1995
How do words have power?	72	1989
How can I be a good friend?	66	1788
What do we mean by consent in friendships?	58	1646
Why are safe hands important?	54	1545
What is bullying?	52	1524
How do I deal with conflict?	55	1408
What can I do when friendships go wrong?	47	1332
How should we treat people?	47	1222

Whitefriars Church of England Primary School – by Elliot Odell – PSHE lead

'Since introducing Pol-Ed this academic year, we have seen a real difference in our classrooms. The content feels purposeful, relevant, and tailored to the needs of our children, which was a key reason we chose it for our school community.

Our teachers value how straightforward and accessible the platform is — everything they need is easy to find and they feel prepared to confidently deliver its content. While we enhance certain areas with additional resources, Pol-Ed has become the core of our PSHE curriculum used to support our pupils' personal development.'

Online Safety– Teacher resources



Themed Lessons - Primary
Online Safety

These lessons have been identified by the Pol-
settings when teaching about online safety.

EYFS
- How can I keep safe at home?
- What are rules?
- What are consequences?

Year 1
- Why is name calling unkind?
- What is bullying?
- Who are my trusted adults?
- What is private information?
- Why does age matter?
- How can I be an empathy expert?

Year 2
- How can I keep safe online?
- What is the internet?
- Why does age matter?
- What are the risks of video gaming?

Year 3
- What can I do when friendships go wrong?
- What is bullying?
- When should I break a secret?
- How can I be a responsible citizen?

Year 4
- What is peer influence?

Relationships | Keeping Safe

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Themed Lessons - Primary
Online Safety

These lessons have been identified by the Pol-Ed team
settings when teaching about online safety.

Year 5
- What is grooming?
- How can we keep our things safe?
- How can we use our phones sensibly?
- What are deepfakes?
- What is media literacy?
- What can and can't I do on the internet?
- How do rules help our community?
- How might being online impact the way I feel?

Year 6
- Why does media have age restrictions?
- How is my data shared?

Primary Assemblies
- Keeping Safe Online
- What are the risks of online challenges?

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Themed Lessons - Secondary
Online Safety

These lessons have been identified by the Pol-Ed team to
settings when teaching about online safety.

Year 7
- Is this banter or bullying?
- What is child-on-child abuse?
- What is an addiction?

Year 8
- Are we responsible with social media?
- How do I deal with unplanned encounters?
- What are deep fakes?
- What are my algorithms?
- What is sextortion?
- What is phishing and hacking?
- What is money laundering?
- How does social media make me feel?

Year 9
- What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?
- What's the issue with nudes?
- How can I manage online relationships?
- How does the media portray sex and relationships?
- How might the internet influence illegal behaviour?
- What are the links between gaming and grooming?
- What are microtransactions? (gaming)?
- What is asphyxiation?
- What do we mean by intimidation?
- What is victim support?

Year 10
- What is image based sexual abuse?
- How is my data used?
- What is radicalisation?

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Themed Lessons - Secondary
Online Safety

Pol-Ed

These lessons have been identified by the Pol-Ed team to help support educational settings when teaching about online safety.

Year 11
- What's the impact of porn on relationships?
- What is victim blaming?
- What is my relationship with AI?

Post-16
- Who are you?
- How do we develop our online brand?
- What is harassment?
- How do we manage cyber security?
- Too good to be true? (Scams, Money Laundering and Illegal Activity)

Secondary Assemblies
- What are the risks of online challenges?

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Online Safety
Police, Community and Parents

	Police Inputs	Community inputs
Early Years (Nursery age 3-5)		
Key Stage 1 - Primary (Yr 1 age 5-6 Yr 2 age 6-7)	Cyberbullying Grooming Harmful Online Content Phone & Online Safety AI (Artificial Intelligence)	Phone & Online Safety Grooming Harassment & Stalking
Key Stage 2 (Yr 3 age 7-8 Yr 4 age 8-9 Yr 5 age 9-10 Yr 6 age 10-11)	Cyberbullying Grooming Harmful Online Content Phone & Online Safety AI (Artificial Intelligence)	Phone & Online Safety Grooming
Key Stage 3 - Secondary Yr 7 age 11-12 Yr 8 age 12-13 Yr 9 age 13-14	Cyberbullying Grooming Harmful Online Content Online Safety (Indecent Images and nudes) Phone & Online Safety AI (Artificial Intelligence) Financially motivated Sexual Extortion	Online Safety (Indecent Images and nudes) Grooming Harassment & Stalking Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Key Stage 4 Yr 10 age 14-15 Yr 11 age 15-16	Cyberbullying Grooming Harmful Online Content Online Safety (Indecent Images and nudes) Phone & Online Safety AI (Artificial Intelligence) Financially motivated Sexual Extortion	Online Safety (Indecent Images and nudes) Grooming Harassment & Stalking Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Post 16	Grooming. Online Safety (Indecent Images and nudes) Phone & Online Safety Financially motivated Sexual Extortion	Online Safety (Indecent Images and nudes) Grooming Harassment & Stalking Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Parents	Online Safety	





Example of ‘Youth Inputs’ slides

Pol-Ed®





Quiz

What are the risks of strangers having this information about you?

Available support

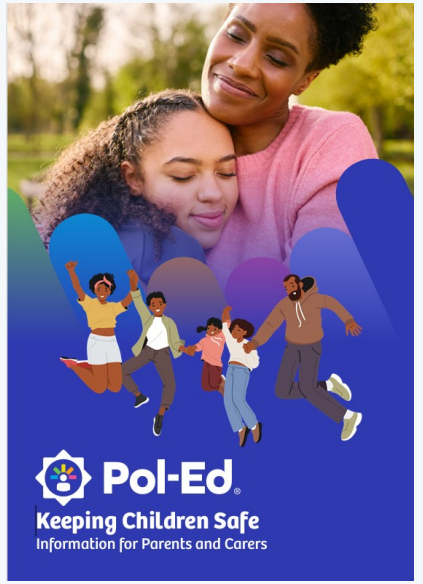
Subject to data hacks:
Have I Been Pwned: Check if your email address has been exposed in a data breach

IWF
Eliminating Child Sexual Abuse Online | Internet Watch Foundation IWF

IWF Report Remove
Report Remove from Childline and IWF

Understanding apps. Parental controls
Keeping Children Safe Online | NSPCC

Tacking issues. Understanding content
Keep Children Safe Online: Information, advice, support - Internet Matters



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