

COURSE CONTENT OVERVIEW

Online Safety and Harms

This Online Safety and Harms course has been designed specifically for education professionals. It provides up-to-date knowledge of the online risks children face, the signs and indicators of online harm, current safeguarding expectations and practical strategies for prevention, intervention and support. The course also explores emerging threats, including AI-generated content, social media influences, gaming environments and online exploitation, helping schools remain informed in an increasingly complex digital landscape.

Throughout the programme, learners will gain access to a range of downloadable resources, practical guidance documents and safeguarding materials that can be used to support ongoing professional practice and whole-school online safety provision.

Module 1: Introduction to Online Safety

This introductory module provides learners with an overview of online safety and harms. Learners will consider the benefits of our digital age, the importance of online safety and the laws to be aware of in relation to online safety and data protection.

- What is online safety?
- The benefits and risks of our digital age
- Why is online safety important?
- Case study
- Online child-on-child abuse
- UK online safety and safeguarding legislation
- KCSIE statutory guidance

Module 2: Online Risks and Harms: Content

In this module, learners will be given a comprehensive outline of the four Cs of online risk. They will also look more closely at content risks in general, including social networking, online gaming and the dark web.

- The four Cs of online risk
- Risk factors
- Vulnerabilities
- Content risks
- Inappropriate or explicit content
- Social media
- Online gaming
- AN and AI companions
- Virtual reality (VR)
- The dark web

Module 3: Online Risks and Harms: Contact, Conduct, and Commerce

In this module, learners will assess the remaining three Cs of online risk, looking more closely at areas such as radicalisation, online bullying and grooming. They will also be introduced to a range of case studies related to these areas of risk.

- Contact risks
- Online bullying
- Online grooming
- Case study
- Radicalisation
- Child sexual exploitation
- Child criminal exploitation and county lines
- Sharing nudes or semi-nudes
- Conduct risks
- Commerce risks
- Potential consequences of online harms
- Supporting children to report online abuse
- Case studies

Module 4: Your Responsibilities

Here, individual and whole-school responsibilities in relation to online safety are explained. Learners will also look more closely at the policies linked to online safety, as well as how to improve their own online safety. They will end by assessing some school-based scenarios linked to online harms and risks.

- Child protection policies
- Online Safety Policy
- Sharing nudes and semi-nudes
- Supporting policies
- The Prevent Duty
- Headteacher responsibilities
- DSL responsibilities
- School staff responsibilities
- Governing bodies responsibilities
- Your own online safety
- School-based scenarios

Module 5: Teaching Online Safety and Harms

In this final module we will explore the relevant government guidance on teaching online safety and consider effective, engaging approaches to putting it into practice. We will also look at the importance of working in partnership with parents or carers to support children's online safety both at school and at home.

- Government guidance
- Curriculum expectations
- Curriculum content - primary
- Curriculum content - secondary
- Delivery of online safety learning
- Planning for children with additional needs
- Creating a safe space for discussion
- Engaging with parents or carers

Aims of the training

By the end of this course, you will:

- Understand the importance of online safety and the dangers that being online can pose.
- Understand the impact that poor online safety can have on a child or young person, and the most common risks children can face online.
- Be aware of some common vulnerabilities and risk factors associated with online harm.
- Be familiar with signs which might indicate that a child is experiencing online harm or abuse.
- Know your responsibilities within school in relation to online safety.
- Know who to report concerns to, and when further action should be taken.
- Understand how to approach teaching online safety and harms to children.
- Be able to identify emerging online risks before they escalate to danger.