What are the risks for children and young people when using the internet and digital technology?

1) Inappropriate Images

For example exposure to;

- Sexual images
- Violent or abusive scenes
- Fetish / sadistic clips
- Death
- Criticism or pushing religious/cultural boundaries
- What may cause harm to a child

2) Cyber bullying

Cyber bullying is bullying which happens through technologies, such as the internet. This could include threatening messages, malicious posts or comments and sharing embarrassing or inappropriate photos or videos.

How common is cyber-bullying

- Bullying one of main reasons for contacting ChildLine, 30,387 counselling sessions in 2012-13
- Bullying pages on site visited 291,000 times.
- Depending on the source between 8% and 34% of children and young people in the UK have been cyberbullied, and girls are twice as likely to experience persistent cyberbullying than boys.
- Children are more vulnerable to cyber bullying during the summer as nearly a quarter (23%) of 12-16 year olds spend more than 5 hours a day online during the holidays.

3) Online Grooming/meeting strangers

- Using own or different identities
- Encouraging child to post sexual images of themselves
- Showing child sexually explicit material
- Encouraging dis-inhibition of children
- Encouraging the exchange of personal information by gaining trust and boosting confidence
- De-sensitising and identity
- Targeting young people with sexualised screen names

Signs and Indicators of Online Solicitation (Grooming)

- Vague talk of a new friend but offering no further information.
- Spending increasing amounts of time talking secretly with the new friend online.
- Not wanting to be alone with a particular adult or young person.
- Sudden, unexplained personality changes & mood swings.
- Outbursts of anger and irritation.
- Self-harm.
- Using own or different identities
- Encouraging child to post sexual images of themselves
- Showing child sexually explicit material
- Encouraging dis-inhibition of children
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Stop It Now 2011

4) Sexting

Sexting is the sending of sexually explicit language, images, including photographs and video by Text (SMS), email or much more commonly, now usually using smartphone technology (IPhone, Samsung Galaxy etc.)

- Mobile technologies allow children to express themselves
- Self-taken material has been identified as causing harm
- Different reasons why self-posting (need to individually assess)
- Until cases are investigated – reasons often not clear
- Adults should consider no blame approach when responding to situation

Information from Childline

- 60 per cent of the young people questioned said they had been asked for a sexual image or video of themselves.
- 40 per cent said they had created an image or video of themselves.
- ¼ of all those questioned saying they had sent the image or video to someone else.

Useful links:

Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) www.ceop.police.uk

Thinkuknow half day training is a free introductory session to the topic of internet safety and the thinkuknow resources. Having attended this session, delegates gain access to ALL resources (many are available without training trough the website) for children and young people.

Ambassadors training is a paid event costing £199. This training session is a detailed look at sexual offending online and runs a series of interactive breakout sessions with the audience, looking at how to deal with a series of incidences, such as 'Sexting'.
Having attended this event, the delegates are given access to not only the resources for children and young people, but practitioners. Meaning that only one person would need to attend from an organisation and they could train their colleagues upon their return.

To sign up you need to visit – www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers/training. If you have any issues they can email CEOP at education@ceop.gov.uk .

The Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum (NIABF) brings together over 20 organisations, all committed to tackling bullying of children and young people in our schools and communities. NIABF supports schools and other organisations in the development of effective anti-bullying policy and practice, including coordinating Anti-Bullying Week in Northern Ireland each November. For more information visit www.endbullying.org.uk or contact Lee Kane (Regional Anti-Bullying Coordinator) on leekane@niabf.org.uk

UK safer Internet Centre   www.saferinternet.org.uk
helpline@saferinternet.org.uk Tel: 0844 3814772

Childnet   www.childnet.com

Beat Bullying   www.beatbullying.org

Online Compass   www.OnlineCompass.org.uk

Childline   www.childline.org.uk   Tel: 0800 1111

NSPCC   www.nspcc.org.uk   Tel: 0808 800 5000
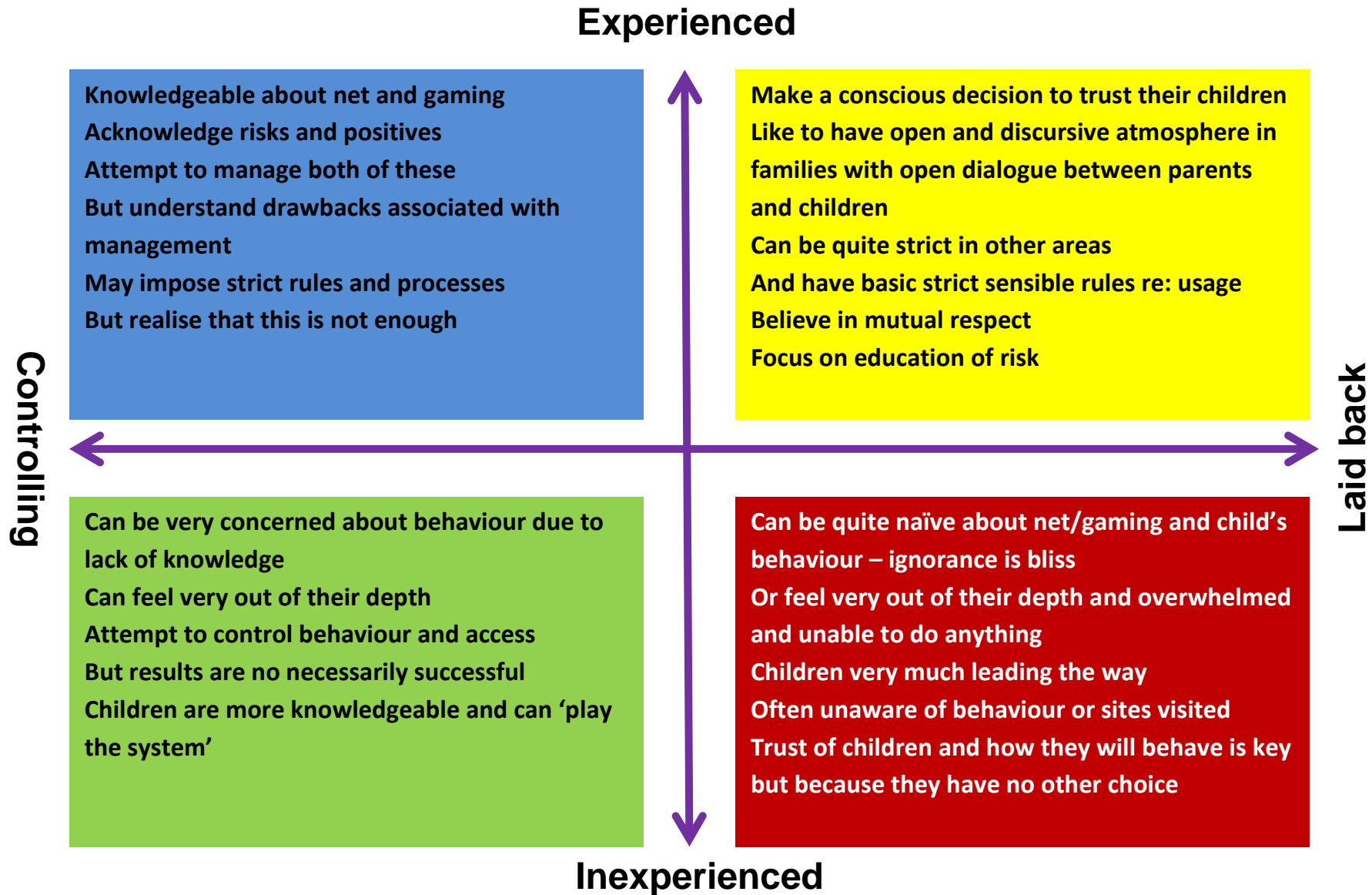
INEQE Safe and Secure   www.ineqe.com   Tel +44 (0) 28 90 232 060

Child Protection in Sport Unit   Contact Paul Stephenson 0203 222 4246 pstephenson@nspcc.org.uk
Advice on social media; https://thecpsu.org.uk/resource-library/?topic=1104

	Content: Child as recipient	Contact: Child as participant	Conduct: Child as actor
Education Learning and digital literacy	Educational resources	Contact with others who share one's interest	Self-initiated or collaborative learning
Participation and civic engagement	Global information	Exchange among interest groups	Concrete forms of civic engagement
Creativity and self-expression	Diversity of resources	Being invited/inspired to create or participate	User-generated content creation
Identity and social connection	Advice (personal/health/sexual, etc.)	Social networking, shared experiences with each other	Expression of Identity

Opportunities

RISKS		Content: Child as recipient	Contact: Child as participant	Conduct: Child as actor
	Commercial	Adverts Spam Sponsorship Personal Info	Tracking Harvesting Personal Info	Illegal downloading Hacking Gambling Financial Scams Terrorism
	Aggressive	Violent/hateful content	Being bullied, harassed or stalked	Bullying or harassing another
	Sexual	Pornographic or unwelcome sexual content	Meeting Strangers Being groomed	Creating and uploading inappropriate material
	Values	Bias Racist Misleading info or advice	Self-harm Unwelcome persuasions	Providing misleading info/advice

Experience of technology determines the effectiveness of online parenting

Experienced

Controlling

Laid back

Inexperienced

Knowledgeable about net and gaming
Acknowledge risks and positives
Attempt to manage both of these
But understand drawbacks associated with management
May impose strict rules and processes
But realise that this is not enough

Make a conscious decision to trust their children
Like to have open and discursive atmosphere in families with open dialogue between parents and children
Can be quite strict in other areas
And have basic strict sensible rules re: usage
Believe in mutual respect
Focus on education of risk

Can be very concerned about behaviour due to lack of knowledge
Can feel very out of their depth
Attempt to control behaviour and access
But results are no necessarily successful
Children are more knowledgeable and can 'play the system'

Can be quite naïve about net/gaming and child's behaviour – ignorance is bliss
Or feel very out of their depth and overwhelmed and unable to do anything
Children very much leading the way
Often unaware of behaviour or sites visited
Trust of children and how they will behave is key but because they have no other choice

Three Strategic Objectives for Child Internet Safety

Objective 1: Reduce Availability	Reduce the availability of harmful and inappropriate content, the prevalence of harmful and inappropriate contact, and the conduciveness of platforms to harmful and inappropriate conduct
Objective 2: Restrict Access	Equip children and their parents to effectively manage access to harmful and inappropriate content, avoid incidences of harmful and inappropriate contact, and reduce harmful and inappropriate conduct
Objective 3: Increase Resilience	Equip children to deal with exposure to harm and inappropriate content and contact, and equip parents to help their children deal with these things and parent effectively around incidences of harmful and inappropriate contact by their children.

Bryon Review (2008)

Safety Messages for Children & Young People

S - SAFE	Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your name, email, phone number, home address, or school name – to people who you don't trust online.
M - MEETING	Meeting people you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents'/carers' permissions and when they can be present.
A - ACCEPTING	Accepting emails, IM messages or opening files from people you don't know or trust can get you into trouble – they may contain viruses or nasty messages.
R – RELIABLE	Someone online may be lying about who they are, and information you find on the internet may not be reliable.
T - TELL	Tell your parent, carer, or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable.