



digitalsafety

DIGITAL SAFETY FOR ALL

Summer 2026



ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER



“Welcome to the twelfth edition of Digital Safety’s half termly bulletin. This edition contains information of what is currently happening in the online world”

Stuart Younger Cooper,
Digital Safety CIC



Gambling Awareness

Could Your Child Sign Up to a Gambling Site Right Now?

Most parents assume there are barriers between their child and online gambling. I’ll be honest, I thought the same. Age checks. Payment verification. ID requirements.

As for licensed regulated sites – yes, those barriers are in place. But a growing number of sites operate in other parts of the Internet where these barriers are not in place.

No ID. No age check. No questions asked.

generativeAI

So let’s talk about what’s actually happening - and what you can do about it, whether your child is eight or sixteen.

What’s changed, and more importantly, why this matters

Online gambling has always existed. But what we’re seeing now is different in scale, in reach, and in invisibility. generativeAI, algorithmic

amplification, or semi-private digital spaces.

Ireland’s Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland (GRAI) recently warned that unregulated overseas gambling websites are allowing children to sign up with no identity checks whatsoever.

These are known as “no KYC” platforms - KYC stands for Know Your Client. It’s the process that makes a site verify who you are before you can deposit money and place bets.

[Read the GRAI article here](#)

Regulated bookmakers in Ireland are legally required to do this. Black-market sites are not. And many of them actively advertise the fact that they don’t.

One site promoted by a high-profile Irish betting tipster to thousands of followers was so unprotected that a former fraudster was able to sign up using the name of a racehorse that died in 1995.

for more info contact Digital Safety info@ds-cic.com

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According to research 'black-market sites make gambling accessible to children, and research shows that doubles the chance of problem gambling later in life'

[Read the research here](#)

That's not a small statistic; that's worth thinking about for a moment as it often starts earlier than you think.

If you have younger children, you might be reading this thinking "my child isn't gambling." And you're probably right, not in the way we traditionally think about it.

I used to be a big gamer back in the day; Super Mario, Sonic, Street Fighter, but the games back had no loot boxes or skins you could trade or purchase.



[Wayne Denner Article](#)

Are You Switched On To Privacy?

One click too many? 75% of parents fear their kids aren't making safe choices online

Three in four parents fear their child can't make safe online privacy choices, new research shows. Yet most rarely, if ever, talk to them about it.

Every day, primary school kids tap 'accept' on apps, games and websites - usually without realising how much personal information they may be sharing as a result.

A single click can reveal far more than a name. It can unveil friendships, interests, moods and even sleep patterns, creating a digital footprint that can last forever - or even be exploited by people with bad intentions.

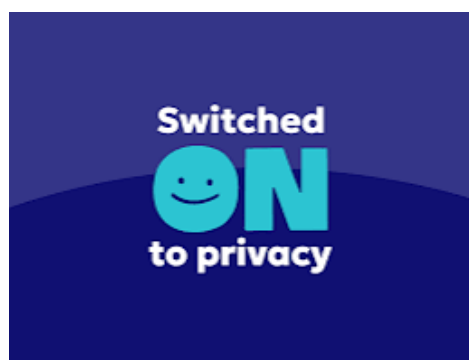
No wonder 71% of parents worry the information their child shares today could affect their future.

- Quarter of primary aged children have shared their real name online - yet a fifth of parents and carers have never spoken to them about online privacy
- The new campaign **Switched on to Privacy** helps parents have the same frank conversations about online privacy as they do about stranger danger and road safety

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The stark findings come as the **Switched on to Privacy** campaign was launched to help parents of kids aged four to 11 start simple conversations about protecting their personal information online.



Backed by stakeholders, the campaign urges parents to treat online privacy as an essential life skill - as natural as teaching a child to cross the road.

Research reveals how exposed children already are:

- **24%** have shared their real name or address online, with eight and nine-year-olds most at risk.
- **22%** have shared personal information such as health details with AI tools.
- **35%** of parents believe their child would share personal information in exchange for game tokens or rewards.

Many parents feel underprepared:

- **46%** don't feel confident protecting their children's privacy online.
- **44%** say they try but aren't sure they're doing enough.
- **42%** say they probably don't spend enough time checking their child's privacy settings.

Research shows online privacy is one of the least discussed online safety topics: 21% of parents have never spoken to their children about it, and 38% discuss it less than once a month. By contrast, 90% of parents have discussed screen time in the past month.

"The internet offers amazing opportunities for children - but every click can leave a hidden data trail and these digital footprints can last forever."

We wouldn't expect our children to share their birthdays or address with a stranger in a shop, because we'd explain stranger danger to them from a very young age, but kids these days are growing up online.

We know that where children's details - like their name, interests and pictures - aren't protected, the potential risks are serious: unwanted contact from strangers, grooming and radicalisation.

"Children's online privacy requires a whole

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society approach. We have taken and will continue to take action to hold tech companies accountable for their role.

There's a role for parents too but the problem is that many families have never been shown how to talk to their children about online privacy.

This is where the ICO comes in. We want parents to feel empowered and children to feel digitally confident, because only then will they be able to start to trust in how their data is used and be part of the whole society solution that is needed for online safety."

- Emily Keaney, ICO Deputy Commissioner

Most parents (88%) think children should start learning about online privacy between ages four and 11 years.

The campaign web hub for Switched On guides parents of children these ages through three simple steps:

Chat regularly with your child about online privacy;

Choose carefully what personal information to share;

Check privacy settings on new devices and apps.

[Check the stats here](#)



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SAVE
THE
DATE!



“Preparing Schools for a Safer
Digital Future”

Barbara Spooner, MBE
CEO, Digital Safety CIC



School Cyber Safety & Standards Conference 2026

*Helping Schools Prepare for the Future of
Digital Safety*

Thursday 15 October 2026
The Sjøvoll Centre, Durham

As schools continue to embrace technology in teaching, learning and administration, the demands around cyber security, online safety and digital governance have never been greater.

Join Digital Safety CIC and Framwellgate School Durham for a practical, informative conference designed specifically for education leaders. Bringing together experts from across the education and cyber security sectors, the event will explore the latest threats, share lessons learned from real incidents and provide practical guidance to help schools strengthen their digital resilience.

The conference will also look ahead to the Department for Education's Digital and Technology Standards, helping schools understand the steps they can take now to prepare for future requirements.

Who should attend?

- Headteachers and Senior Leadership Teams
- School Business and Operations Managers
- IT Managers and Network Leads
- Governors and Trustees
- Multi-Academy Trust Leaders
- Local Authority Education Teams

What you'll gain

- Practical cyber security guidance for schools
- Updates on emerging digital threats
- Advice on meeting DfE Digital and Technology Standards
- Best practice from experienced education and cyber professionals
- Networking opportunities with colleagues from across the sector

Date: Thursday 15 October 2026

Time: 10.00am – 3.00pm

Venue: The Sjøvoll Centre, Durham

Attendance: £55 per person (includes lunch and refreshments)

To book your place, click the Eventbrite link below or email events@ds-cic.com, where a member of the team will be happy to assist with your booking.

Book your **TICKETS** here

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“Helping Schools Build Safer,
More Digitally Resilient
Communities

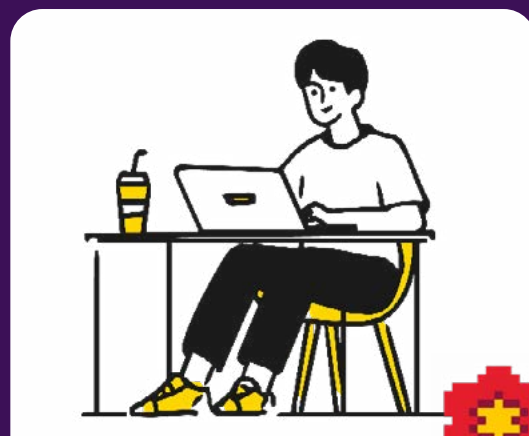
Barbara Spooner, MBE
CEO, Digital Safety CIC



“Every school deserves the confidence that its people, systems and pupils are protected in an increasingly digital world. That’s why Digital Safety CIC exists - to provide practical support, trusted advice and expert guidance that makes a real difference.” *Barbara Spooner MBE*

Supporting Your School

- Develop a whole-school digital safety strategy
- Prepare for the DfE Digital & Technology Standards
- Strengthen cyber security and online safeguarding
- Build staff confidence through practical training
- Support governors and senior leaders with strategic advice
- Help create a safer digital culture across your school



How We Can Support You

Whether you’re looking to:

- improve cyber resilience
- strengthen online safeguarding
- understand new AI guidance
- support staff training
- prepare for future DfE requirements
- develop a long-term digital strategy

**our team can provide practical support
tailored to your school.**

[Find out more here](#)



Gill from DS delivering to communities



WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY & HEALTHY SUMMER!

