

# Welcome to the May 2025Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Schools

Ofcom publishes :  
Children's Media Use and Attitudes report 2025



making communications work  
for everyone

[The report](#) looks at media use, attitudes and understanding among children and young people aged 3-17 and includes findings on parents' views about their children's media use, and how parents of children and young people aged 3-17 monitor and manage their children's use of media.

## Children and smartphone use Key findings include:

- Parents reported that very young children are getting their own mobile phone,
- one in five (19%) 3-5s
- nearly a third (30%) of 6-7s
- social media use among 3-5s has seen a significant increase—up from 29% last year to 37%.
- Almost all (94%) 8-17s who go online on their phones say that they have at least one restriction imposed on them, either in school or at home.
- Over half (56%) of children aged 8-17 who use their phones to go online say they are banned from using their smartphones all of the time they are in school.
- Nine in ten (92%) 8-17s can recall having had at least one lesson at school about online safety. A higher proportion of this group found these lessons "very useful" compared to the year previous (45% vs. 39%).

**NB. The minimum age requirements for most social media platforms is 13 years of age**

Access the full report on [Key Findings](#)

## AI is on the rise – but it's not trusted by all

- three in ten adults now say they have used AI tools,
- AI is not trusted any more than it was in 2023.
- There has been a marked increase in the use of AI tools, like ChatGPT and Microsoft CoPilot, including people using them for work.
- Half of online 8- to 17-year-olds say they use AI tools, an increase on last year, and they're often used for learning and/or schoolwork.
- Generally, AI tools were being used for limited, specific tasks, with an emphasis on labour-saving. Uses included drafting documents, helping with writing style, or as an intelligent search engine.

Review the [Children's Media](#) Summary Report in full.

Review all previous annual reports since 2015.

## In 2015 it was reported that:

**Parents were concerned about children's exposure to inappropriate content and behaviour online. When asked about their concerns about their children's internet use, parents highlighted:**

- exposure to inappropriate or upsetting content;
- exposure to bad behaviour by others;
- risky behaviour by children themselves; such as speaking to strangers online or posting inappropriate photos



## How secure is your school's network?

**With recent reports of major organisations having their IT systems being 'Hacked'.** Scomis reminds all customers that as Schools have an increasing reliance on IT and online systems this makes Cyber Security an extremely important consideration for senior management, Governing bodies and Trustees. Robust **Network security** will prevent loss of data, accidental damage and malicious activity (cyber attacks).

Steps you should consider include:

1. Staff training and user awareness—**staff should know how to report 'phishing emails'**. Consider Cyber Security training on a Staff Inset session
2. Check user access and privileges— Staff should only have access they need **NOT** more!
3. **Backup your data!** Remember having data stored 'in the cloud—Google Drive/Microsoft Office 365' **IS NOT** the same as a Cloud Backup
4. Implement a System Recovery Plan—create a **Recovery Plan** which is reviewed **AND** tested at regular intervals. [Emergency Planning and Response](#)

For more detailed advice and guidance with practical resources for schools including:

- Cyber Security training for staff
- Questions to ask Governing Bodies and Trustees
- Early Years Practitioners
- Helping staff to work safely online visit the national Cyber Security Centre—[Cyber Security for Schools](#)
- Review the National Cyber Security Centre's : **Advice, resources and opportunities for schools and students interested in cyber security webpage [here](#)**

Or contact Scomis for impartial and objective advice on:

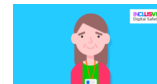
- Infrastructure Services
- Network Solutions and Services
- Remote Back-up

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## Inclusive Digital Safety advice hub

[Internet Matters](#), advice for professionals working with children and young people with LGBTQ+ young people, SEND and care-experienced children and young people.

Watch the video [Inclusive Digital Safety](#)



## Free Resources for Schools

### Reminder—looking for free Online Safety Resources?

The following websites have lots of free resources for Schools. Open the links below and explore:

[Internet Matters](#) Advice by age

[NSPCC](#) Resources for professionals

[CEOPS ThinkUKnow](#) Resources for professionals

[Child Net](#) Guidance for educators

For more information  
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