

USEFUL ONLINE TERMS AND REFERENCES FOR PARENTS/CARERS TO KNOW



The online world is fast-paced and ever-changing. So much so that trying to keep up with it can sometimes feel impossible.

This cheat sheet is designed to help you get to grips with some of the more popular online terms and references that may be unfamiliar to you.

Hacking

The gaining of unauthorised access to data in a system, computer or account.

So-called 'Revenge Porn'

The public sharing of a sexually explicit photograph or video of someone without their consent, with or without the intention to humiliate or cause them harm. The ISPCC does not advocate the use of this term as it can diminish the impact such an action has on the person impacted. There are now laws in place that prohibit this type of behaviour.

Sharenting

The overuse of social media by parents to share content based on their children, such as baby pictures or details of their children's activities.

Doomscrolling

The act of consuming a large quantity of negative online news at once.

Sexting/Sharing Nudes

The sending of sexually explicit messages or photos.

Grooming

Building a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person by an older person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them.

Finsta

Short for a "Fake Instagram", it refers to an account made so that a user can post images and interact with other accounts in a more private way.

Livestream

A live transmission of an event like a concert over the internet.

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DMing

Simply put 'DMing' just means chatting privately with someone.

Facetuning

The editing of photos (particularly selfies) to make the person seem more beautiful, often to unrealistic and/or unattainable standards.

NSFW

NSFW stands for Not Safe For Work. This is generally a warning placed on content that may have foul language, violence, sex or anything you wouldn't be comfortable watching if your colleagues or family were around.

MSM

MSM stands for Mainstream Media.
(Note: This can also mean men who have sex with men.)

Ghosting

A term that originated in dating, ghosting someone means suddenly ignoring all their messages. It can be seen as a way of breaking up with someone without actually telling them.

