

# Online Safety

## Youth Taskforce

### Information for parents and carers

#### What is Child Safety Online?

Here at the NSPCC our work to keep children safe online focuses on putting young people's voices at the heart of everything we do. Because today's children are the first generation to be growing up online, but decisions about the online world are made without them, by adults with a fraction of the knowledge about what they are seeing and experiencing...

...that simply is not good enough. As part of putting young people at the heart of our work, we are looking to recruit a Youth Taskforce of 15 young people to be a pivotal part of the work we will be doing. This work will involve talking with industry leaders in the online world, influencing laws and regulation, and looking at solutions to current harmful trends online.

**As part of the Online Safety Youth Taskforce, we will be creating space for young people to discuss the issues they face online.**



## What is the Online Safety Youth Taskforce?

The Online Safety Youth Taskforce will be a group of young people who are passionate about keeping young people safe online and will help us to amplify children's voices and experiences to help keep others safe online.

The Online Safety Youth Taskforce will bring together 15 young people who will provide representation at an organisational level for Child Safety Online work at the NSPCC, meeting with key decision-makers and sharing their experiences and thoughts around online safety with them to drive change. The board will be made up of 13-16-year-olds from across the UK, with representation from each nation. They will meet on a regular basis between April 2024 and March 2026.

Should your child be successful in joining the Online Safety Youth Taskforce, you will be asked permission for your child to attend the following events (full details and dates will be shared in advance of all events):

- Weekend residentials at different locations in the UK (expenses and travel costs will be covered by NSPCC).
- Virtual meetings (via video call platforms) with other Online Safety Youth Taskforce members, hosted by NSPCC staff.
- Meetings with NSPCC trustees and other staff, in-person or virtual.
- Conferences and other NSPCC events.
- External youth events.

## How we will support the young people on the Online Safety Youth Taskforce

Some of the topics we will cover with the Online Safety Youth Taskforce could be sensitive and our NSPCC staff will support the young people with this. Some of the steps we will take to support the young people are as follows:

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- We will always give prior warning to parents and carers, and the young people on topics we plan to discuss.
- We will always respect young people's right to not engage in discussions as they choose.
- We will spend time exploring topics which are likely to come up with the young people individually during their onboarding to the Online Safety Youth Taskforce and put in place a wellbeing plan for their time on the Online Safety Youth Taskforce.
- We will always have trained and supportive staff with current DBS checks in place running the sessions and access to support via Childline if needed.

## What will be involved

If your child becomes a member of the Online Safety Youth Taskforce, they will:

- Attend monthly sessions and workshops online with the rest of the Online Safety Youth Taskforce. Some sessions will be face-to-face but the majority will be held virtually.
- Share their views and ideas with key decision makers at the NSPCC, and industry leaders within the online world.
- Work with the rest of the Online Safety Youth Taskforce to champion young people's views about the online world, throughout the child safety online work of the NSPCC.
- Be trained to develop lots of important skills like campaigning, public speaking, and teamwork.
- Represent the Online Safety Youth Taskforce at exciting events with lots of people interested in online safety.
- Meet with other teams within the NSPCC to help make the online world safer.
- Understand new and emerging trends and work as a team to develop advice and information on harmful trends.



## We need young people who:

- Are between 13 and 16 years old.
- Have an interest in keeping young people safe online.
- Are prepared to listen to others and respect their views.
- Are willing to work with others and local groups.
- Are willing to contribute to the Online Safety Youth Taskforce to the best of their ability.
- Can attend monthly virtual meetings and workshops (dates will be shared in advance). Can attend an annual in-person residential (dates will be shared in advance and costs will be covered by the NSPCC).

## What is the commitment?

- Attend all online and face-to-face meetings, including in-person residential events. The majority of meetings will be held virtually on a monthly basis, during the early evening and lasting no more than 2 hours.
- Take every opportunity to advise the NSPCC on the issues that affect children and young people online.
- Tell the NSPCC their thoughts on what the organisation is doing, and what we could be doing better for children and young people in the online world.
- Meet with online industry leaders and decision makers within the NSPCC to raise awareness and shape the online world.
- We want to reassure all parents and carers that the young people will always be fully supported in these projects and would never be expected to do something they don't feel comfortable with.

## What will young people gain?

As a member of the NSPCC Online Safety Youth Taskforce, they will have the opportunity to travel across the country to take part in residential, meetings, consultations and workshops. They will have their views heard by other young people, NSPCC trustees, staff, politicians and decision-makers. They will be trained and supported to seek the views of other children and young people, using a variety of methods. Above all, they will meet other young people and have lots of fun together.

## How much will it cost?

The NSPCC will cover the cost of travel, accommodation and reasonable expenses for regional and national meetings. What we will cover will be shared with you in advance of attending a meeting.

## Next steps and further information

Please can your young person complete an application form by 12th January 2024, along with the parental consent form. Both can be found here [www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/online-safety-youth-taskforce/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/online-safety-youth-taskforce/)

If you have further questions, please contact: [YouthCSOSolutions@Nspcc.org.uk](mailto:YouthCSOSolutions@Nspcc.org.uk)

## Child Protection

The NSPCC are committed to the protection of children and young people, and to creating a working culture where children and young people are valued and safeguarded. The NSPCC have a child protection policy and procedures to which all staff are expected to work. To create a safe environment for children and staff where poor practice is challenged, the following steps are taken:

- All staff are police-checked, and references are taken to verify staff suitability.
- All staff are supervised and supported in their work.
- All staff work to the NSPCC child protection procedures which are reviewed and updated as necessary.
- All staff receive training in child protection at a level appropriate to their work situation.
- All staff can raise concerns about poor or dangerous practice through the NSPCC's child protection procedures and whistleblowing policy.
- All our events are fully risk-assessed.
- Insurance details are obtained and verified for any external venues that we use.

