

Voice of

Online Youth

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.

Today's generation have first-hand experience of being online, but decisions about the online world are being made without them.

As part of putting young people at the heart of our work, we are looking to recruit a group of up to 20 young people to continue the pivotal work we are doing. This involves talking with decision makers about the online world, influencing laws and regulation, and looking at solutions to current harmful trends online.

As part of the Voice of Online Youth, young people will have a space to discuss the issues they face online and to champion change.



NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Registered charity in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (216401), Scotland (SC037717) and Jersey (384).

What is the Voice of Online Youth?

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

The group brings together up to 20 young people to 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 to drive change. The Voice of Online Youth will be made up of 12-15 year olds, with representation from each nation from across the UK. They will meet on a regular basis between June 2026 and December 2027.

Should your child be successful in joining the Voice of Online Youth, 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 Voice of Online Youth members, hosted by NSPCC staff.
- Meetings with NSPCC trustees and other staff, in-person or virtual.
- Conferences and other NSPCC events.
- External youth events.

There is an expectation that a parent or carer will accompany their young person to events as much as possible (travel and accommodation will be provided).

How we will support the young people in the group

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

- 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 Voice of Online Youth and put in place a wellbeing plan for their time in the group.
- All staff running the sessions are trained in first aid, have current DBS checks in place and access to additional support via Childline if needed.

What will be involved

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

- Attend sessions and workshops online every other month with the rest of the Voice of Online Youth. 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 Voice of Online Youth 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 Voice of Online Youth 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 12 and 15 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 Voice of Online Youth to the best of their ability.
- Can attend all virtual meetings and workshops.

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 every other month, during the early evening and lasting no more than two 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.
- Please note some opportunities and events can be held during school time and may require you to seek permission from your child's school to attend.

What will young people gain?

As a member of the Voice of Online Youth, young people will have the opportunity to travel across the country to take part in residential, away days, 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

Your young person will need to complete an application form by 22nd May 2026, and you will need to complete the accompanying parental consent form.

[Both can be found here.](#)

If you have further questions, please contact:

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 trained in first aid.
- 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.

