

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER.



TEEN SLANG, EMOJIS, & HASHTAGS



With constant access to social media and messaging apps, teens often use slang, acronyms, and emojis to communicate in ways that aren't always clear to adults. These meanings can change quickly—and vary by school or location—making it hard to keep up. SmartSocial.com offers an updated guide to help parents and educators

stay informed about trending terms, hidden emoji meanings, and risky hashtags, supporting safer, more open conversations with young people.

430+ Teen Slang, Emojis, & Hashtags Parents Need to Know

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TEENS, SOCIAL MEDIA & YOU

"Teens, social media & you" is a guide from media smart and tiktok, designed for parents and carers of teens aged 13+. It helps adults understand the online world their young person is navigating, offering tips to support safe, balanced use of social media through open conversation and active involvement.



Media Smart - TikTok Teens, Social Media and You

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WHAT TECH-FACILITATED ABUSE LOOKS LIKE IN TEENAGE RELATIONSHIPS



Teenagers' online and offline lives are closely connected, including their relationships. Technology can enhance communication but also enable control and abuse. Learn how to support your teen in recognizing and responding to tech-facilitated abuse. For more insights, read the Internet Matters blog on this issue **Tech-facilitated abuse: Guide for parents | Internet Matters**

TIPS:

- Help your teen secure their devices and accounts
 - Check for tracking devices and spyware
 - Document digital abuse and keep evidence
 - Report and seek support
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CHILDLINE - BEHIND THE SCREEN

Sexual extortion (blackmail) is a growing concern. *Behind the Screen* is a free campaign and information pack from Childline, offering guidance for staff, parents, and young people on its impact, language, and support strategies. Some important areas covered in the guide include:

- How to Spot the Signs
- Common Language & Tactics
- Impact on Young People
- How to Support Young People
- Where to Get Help



Childline Reach: Behind the Screen

HELP LGBTQ+ CHILDREN BROWSE SAFELY ONLINE

This guide provides advice on how to support LGBTQ+ children in navigating the online world safely. It covers key topics such as:

- Privacy settings
- Safe browsing
- Dealing with online hate
- Accessing supportive communities

The guide aims to help parents and carers create a safe and inclusive digital environment where LGBTQ+ children can explore their identities while staying protected from online risks.



LGBTQ+ children browsing safely | Internet Matters

WHAT IS KICK STREAMING? WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW



Many parents and carers are familiar with Twitch, a popular live-streaming platform for gamers. Due to controversies over its restrictions, alternatives like Kick have gained popularity. Launched in 2022, Kick follows a similar model where users (13+) can stream and earn money. However, much of its content is adult in nature, making it important for parents to be aware of the platform and its potential risks for younger users. **What is Kick streaming?**

Safety guide for parents | Internet Matters

GAME SAFE GUIDE - HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE GAME SAFELY ONLINE

The "Game Safe" guide from Internet Matters helps parents support safe, balanced online gaming for young people. It covers age-appropriate content, managing screen time, setting parental controls, and staying alert to online risks like in-game chats and spending. It also encourages open conversations to promote safe and positive gaming experiences.

Game safe guide to help young people game safely online

The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online.

Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and whole school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the HFL Education Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire. Contact the team at wellbeing@hfleducation.org or call 01438 544464.

HFL Education is a leading national provider of school improvement and business support services, training, and resources, which enable schools, educational settings, and multi-academy trusts to deliver a great education.

We support those we work with to achieve successful long-term outcomes for their children.

We believe that every young person, through access to a great education, should be able to realise their potential, regardless of where they live, their background or circumstances.



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