



SHEBBEAR COLLEGE

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2023

New parental controls for apps

In an effort to enhance online safety for children, Meta introduced new parental controls for FB Messenger and Instagram in June 2023. As of August 30th, these enhancements have been made available worldwide.

What's New for Messenger?

- Monitor the duration your child spends on the app.
- Keep tabs on any updates to their contact list.
- Receive alerts if your child flags a user.
- Check who can initiate a chat with your child.
- See who has access to view your child's stories.

Instagram's Improved Features:

- Now, users wishing to message someone not following them must first send a text-only invitation to connect. This effectively prevents receiving unsolicited and inappropriate photos from unfamiliar users. Messaging can only proceed if the invite is accepted.

The link below will take you to an article regarding these updates and how to take proactive measures to safeguard your child's online experiences.

<https://about.fb.com/news/2023/06/parental-supervision-and-teen-time-management-on-metas-apps/>

'I'm being exploited' film

The Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) has launched a compelling short film titled *'I'm Being Exploited'*, produced in collaboration with Northamptonshire Police and local partners.

This poignant piece is a call to action, emphasising the pressing issue of Child Exploitation (CE) in the UK.

Child Exploitation occurs when children are preyed upon by individuals or criminal groups, forcing or manipulating them into committing crimes or performing sexual acts.

The film's mission is to equip parents and caregivers with the knowledge to recognise the signs of exploitation and understand the significant role they play in preventing it. The film portrays potential signs of exploitation, such as behavioural shifts, unexpected new possessions, multiple phones, declining academic performance, unexplained injuries, and more.

Detective Chief Inspector Jen Castle urges parents and trusted adults to discern these signs and take them seriously. Exploiters are cunning, often deceiving their victims into feeling special and appreciated. Many young victims might not recognise their situation until it's too late, feeling trapped, ashamed, or too frightened to seek help. Recognising these signs can make a world of difference.

If you think someone you know might be being exploited, there are people you can talk to who can help. Contact Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency. Or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. You can also contact NSPCC 0808 800 5000.

[I'm Being Exploited - Full Video](#)

