

MANAGING MY ONLINE SELF



.

"Social media allows us to be creative, connected, to campaign for things we believe in, to become social entrepreneurs."

**Whatsapp 78% Tiktok 72%
Snapchat (69%) Instagram
(48%) YouTube (38%)
Facebook (34%)**

"It's a platform that should be celebrated and if online abuse or fake news stops it from flourishing we all lose."

SOCIAL MEDIA – A GOOD THING

- A place to share what you love and to connect with others
- Learn networking skills
- Receive and share ideas
- Keep up to date with news/trends etc
- Campaign for good causes
- Raise funds
- Feel part of something bigger

Entertaining

WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?

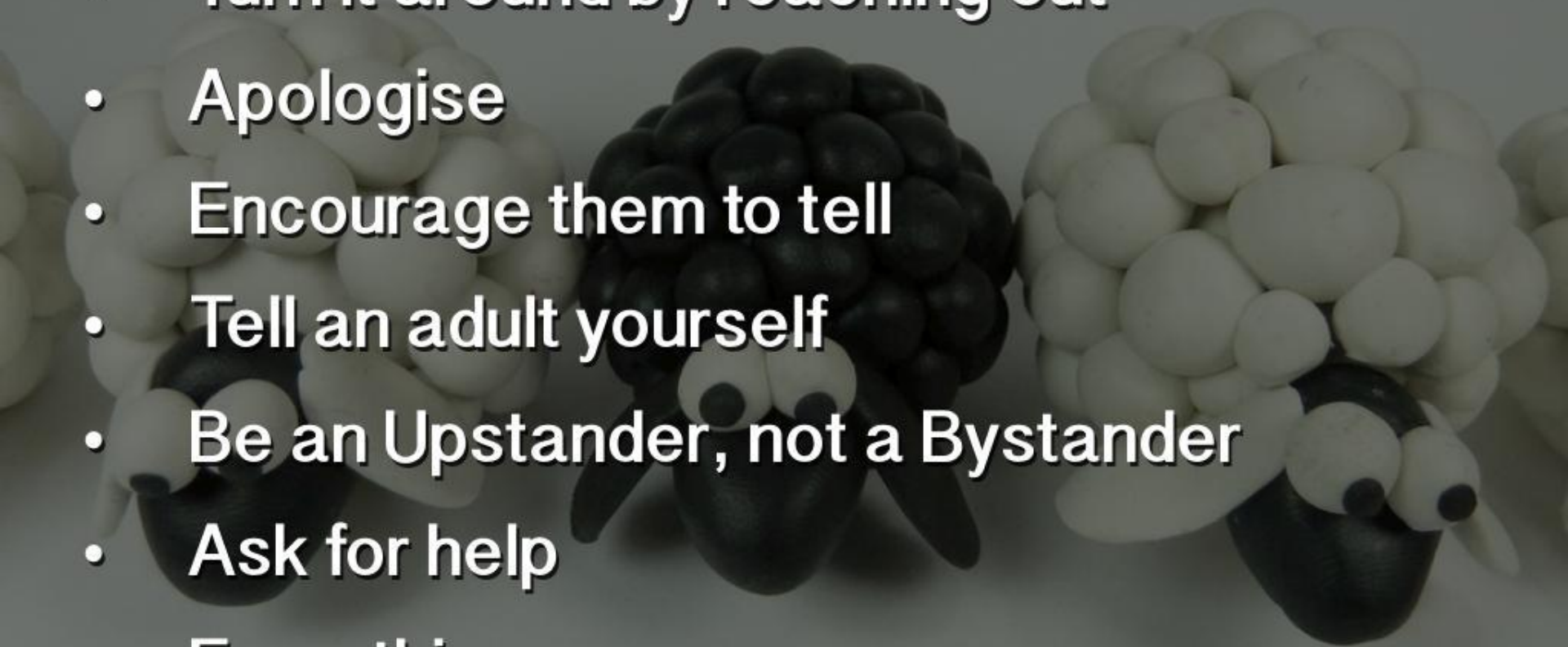
- Using Texts, Posts, Likes, Comments etc....
- Written, Video or Photos
- To spread rumours, harass, deliberately exclude or make threats
- Sharing information and images in a mean way
- It is BULLYING - just online
- Once is enough

HIDING BEHIND OTHERS

- Using groups to target one person
- Nothing is anonymous
- Can be remark/image picked up by others
- Not 'crack', 'fun' or less hurtful than face to face.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM PART OF THE PROBLEM ?

- Turn it around by reaching out
- Apologise
- Encourage them to tell
- Tell an adult yourself
- Be an Upstander, not a Bystander
- Ask for help
- Empathise



WHAT ABOUT IF I AM THE TARGET?

- Tell a parent, teacher, friend..
- Keep a journal /screenshots/print.
- Email to an adult.
- Hand over phone to adult for an evening.
- Never reply to abusive messages. Don't feed the trolls!
- Report it to school

PRIVACY-TAKING CONTROL ONLINE.

- Block
- Get a new sim
- Make number private
- Follow the 'T Shirt Rule'
- Uncomfortable? Don't join in!
- Reach out to the victim
- Webwise

T is it TRUE?

H is it HELPFUL?

I is it INSPIRING?

N is it NECESSARY?

K is it KIND?

Coco's Law (Ireland)

This is the common name for the **Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020** in Ireland.

- **Goal:** To combat online harassment and the non-consensual sharing of intimate images.
- **Key Provisions (New Offences):**
 - **Offence 1:** Distributing or publishing intimate images of a person **without consent and with intent to cause harm**. Penalties are severe, including an unlimited fine and/or up to 7 years in prison.
 - **Offence 2:** Taking, distributing, or publishing intimate images of a person **without consent**, even if there is no specific intent to cause harm. Penalties include a maximum fine of €5,000 and/or up to 12 months in prison.

- **Intimate Images:** The law applies even if the person initially consented to the image being taken, but later did not consent to it being shared. It also covers threats to share intimate images.
- **12 Years Old:** The minimum age of criminal responsibility in Ireland is **12 years old**. Therefore, the offences created under Coco's Law can apply to children from this age onward.
- **Origin:** The law is named after Nicole "Coco" Fox, who tragically took her own life after being subjected to relentless online abuse.

Roblox

1. **Grooming and Contact with "Bad Actors"**

This is consistently ranked as the most serious risk. The platform's social features (chat, direct messages, and voice chat) are actively exploited by adults intending to harm children.

- **The Risk:** Predators pose as peers or friendly adults, build trust, and then attempt to lure the child off the platform (to less-moderated apps like Discord or Snapchat) to engage in grooming, sexual exploitation, or sextortion.
- **The Irish Context:** An Garda Síochána (Irish police) have issued explicit warnings, with the cybercrime division stating they are seeing an "alarming" scale of grooming and sexual exploitation originating on gaming platforms like Roblox.
- **Mitigation:** **Crucially, activate the Parent PIN** and set the communication limits to **"Friends Only"** or **"No One."** Ensure you know who your child has friended.

2. Exposure to Inappropriate and Sexual Content

Due to the vast quantity of user-generated content (UGC), explicit or disturbing material frequently slips through moderation and can be accessed even by young players.

- **The Risk:** Games (often called "condo games" or suggestive role-play environments) are created and quickly shared to bypass filters, exposing children to:
 - **Sexualised Avatars & Roleplay:** Characters simulating explicit acts or conversations referencing sexual content.
 - **Disturbing/Violent Themes:** Games featuring strong violence, horror, or themes like self-harm or suicide.
 - **Bypassed Filters:** Users commonly use code or symbols (e.g., "s3x" instead of "sex") to trick the chat filters.
- **The European Context:** Research has highlighted a "troubling disconnect" between Roblox's child-friendly appearance and the adult nature of some content easily accessed by minors, leading to calls for stronger regulatory enforcement under the EU's Digital Services Act (DSA).
- **Mitigation:** Ensure the account uses the correct date of birth to activate the strictest **Content Maturity** settings (e.g., Minimal/Mild), and regularly review the games your child has played.

3. Financial Exploitation and Overspending (Dark Patterns)

The platform's business model relies on the in-game currency, **Robux**, which often leads to financial issues.

- **The Risk:** Children do not easily grasp the real-world value of Robux, leading to:
 - **Excessive Spending:** Impulse purchases on virtual items, leading to large, unmonitored bills.
 - **Scams:** Being targeted by phishing scams and fraudulent offers promising "free Robux" in exchange for their account password or personal information.
 - **Psychological Manipulation ("Dark Patterns"):** European consumer groups have filed complaints, arguing the design of the marketplace uses manipulative tricks to pressure young users into spending more real money.
- **Mitigation: Set a Spending PIN** via Parental Controls, and ensure no credit card information is saved to the account. Talk to your child about the real value of Robux.

- Keep passwords private
- Change status to 'hidden' or block
- Don't add strangers - audit
- Take control by logging off
- REPORT IT - Service Provider and Gardai



A black and white photograph of an astronaut on the moon. The astronaut is wearing a full spacesuit and is standing on the lunar surface. To the left of the astronaut, an American flag is planted in the ground. The ground is covered in footprints and tracks from a lunar rover. The background is the dark, desolate landscape of the moon.

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

WHAT YOU POST NOW WILL BE SEEN FOREVER

SEXTING

- 13% OF SECONDARY school students have sent a nude or semi-nude photo of themselves
- 4% of first years sent a sexting image, compared to 34% of sixth years

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Talk to Tutors, Year Heads, DPs
Teachers, Counsellors
- Anti Bullying Policy / Friendship
Week/SPHE/Assemblies etc
- Support for all - restoring relationships
- Kindness and Empathy
- Knowledge is power - webwise.ie
- Have that talk - agreed rules