

YouGov / NSPCC Survey Results

Sample Size: 1723 adults in UK who consented to answer questions about children's online safety
Fieldwork: 26th - 27th April 2023

	Vote in 2019 GE				EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Social Grade		Country				Region in England			
	Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	North	Midlands	London	South
Weighted Sample	1704	529	411	146	616	625	799	905	185	730	413	374	992	712	1433	78	147	46	413	267	202	551
Unweighted Sample	1723	538	436	143	703	645	774	949	172	764	422	365	1038	685	1441	85	153	44	411	266	223	541
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Do you think that the Online Safety Bill should or should not make it a requirement for an independent advocacy body to be set up that acts specifically to promote and protect children's interests and safety online?

Should	80	82	81	89	85	81	75	84	68	79	80	87	79	81	79	71	91	86	78	74	73	84
Should not	7	7	7	3	6	8	11	4	10	8	5	6	8	6	7	9	2	6	9	10	10	4
Don't know	13	10	12	8	9	11	14	12	22	14	14	7	14	12	14	19	7	8	13	16	17	12

Do you think the Online Safety Bill should or should not make it requirement for an independent advocacy body to be set up to ensure technology companies and regulators fully understand the risks children face on social media?

Should	83	84	85	91	87	83	78	87	76	81	84	89	83	84	82	84	89	85	82	77	81	85
Should not	6	8	6	3	6	8	11	2	6	8	6	4	7	5	7	4	4	8	7	9	6	5
Don't know	11	8	9	6	7	9	11	10	18	11	10	7	10	12	11	12	6	7	10	14	12	10

To what extent, if at all, do you think it is necessary that the Online Safety Bill ensures that Ofcom listens to the opinions and experiences of children online?

Very necessary	62	65	65	67	69	64	55	69	49	57	69	73	60	65	61	75	67	62	64	54	50	67
Fairly necessary	24	23	24	28	23	24	27	22	27	29	18	20	28	20	24	17	26	27	23	30	32	20
TOTAL NECESSARY	86	88	89	95	92	88	82	91	76	86	87	93	88	85	85	92	93	89	87	84	82	87
Not very necessary	4	4	3	1	2	5	6	2	6	4	3	3	4	3	4	4	3	8	3	4	5	3
Not at all necessary	1	3	1	0	1	2	3	0	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	2	2
TOTAL NOT NECESSARY	5	7	4	1	3	7	9	2	8	5	5	5	6	4	6	5	3	8	4	5	7	5
Don't know	8	5	6	4	5	5	9	7	16	9	8	3	6	11	9	3	3	2	8	11	11	8

Sample Size: 1723 adults in UK who consented to answer questions about children's online safety
Fieldwork: 26th - 27th April 2023

	Vote in 2019 GE				EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Social Grade		Country				Region in England			
Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem		Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	North	Midlands	London	South
Weighted Sample 1704	529	411	146		616	625	799	905	185	730	413	374	992	712	1433	78	147	46	413	267	202	551
Unweighted Sample 1723	538	436	143		703	645	774	949	172	764	422	365	1038	685	1441	85	153	44	411	266	223	541
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Do you believe it should or should not become a legal requirement for the following to scan messages and posts on their platforms for child sexual abuse?

Private messaging services

This should be a legal requirement	60	66	60	63	62	66	54	66	47	56	64	73	57	65	60	57	65	65	63	58	45	64
This should not be a legal requirement	21	18	24	21	21	19	29	14	31	25	18	13	25	16	22	26	15	22	19	24	31	19
Don't know	18	17	16	15	17	15	17	20	22	20	18	14	18	19	18	17	20	13	18	18	24	17

Social media sites

This should be a legal requirement	79	83	78	84	82	83	73	85	69	74	84	90	79	81	79	74	83	84	79	74	71	84
This should not be a legal requirement	10	9	12	10	9	10	17	4	16	13	7	5	12	8	11	16	5	7	10	14	16	8
Don't know	10	8	10	6	9	7	10	11	15	13	9	4	9	11	10	10	12	9	11	12	13	8

End-to-end encryption is a system of communication where only the communicating users can read the messages. This increases privacy for legitimate users, but at the same time makes it challenging to tell if it is being used for illegal activity, such as child sexual abuse.

Do you think technology companies should or should not be required to identify and disrupt child sexual abuse in end-to-end encrypted messaging apps?

Should	72	79	65	74	72	79	67	76	56	69	75	81	71	72	70	73	80	81	69	73	60	74
Should not	11	8	18	12	13	9	18	5	18	14	10	4	14	8	12	9	6	5	12	10	22	10
Don't know	17	13	17	14	15	12	15	19	26	17	15	15	15	20	17	19	14	14	19	17	18	16

End-to-end encryption is a system of communication where only the communicating users can read the messages. This increases privacy for legitimate users, but at the same time makes it challenging to tell if it is being used for illegal activity, such as child sexual abuse.

Do you think technology companies should or should not seek to develop technology that allows them to identify child sexual abuse in end-to-end encrypted messaging apps?

Should	79	85	76	79	79	84	74	83	68	76	79	89	78	79	78	79	81	84	75	83	68	82
Should not	8	7	12	9	9	7	13	4	11	9	7	4	10	6	8	6	6	4	9	6	17	6
Don't know	13	9	12	12	12	9	13	14	21	15	13	7	12	15	13	16	12	12	16	11	15	12

Sample Size: 1723 adults in UK who consented to answer questions about children's online safety
Fieldwork: 26th - 27th April 2023

	Vote in 2019 GE				EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Social Grade		Country				Region in England			
	Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	England	Wales	Scotland	Nothern Ireland	North	Midlands	London	South
Weighted Sample	1704	529	411	146	616	625	799	905	185	730	413	374	992	712	1433	78	147	46	413	267	202	551
Unweighted Sample	1723	538	436	143	703	645	774	949	172	764	422	365	1038	685	1441	85	153	44	411	266	223	541
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

And do you think technology companies should or should not be required by law to use accredited technology to identify child sexual abuse in end-to-end encrypted messaging apps?

Should be required by law	73	81	71	75	75	80	66	79	56	69	75	88	71	76	73	72	79	81	72	75	58	77
Should not be required by law	10	7	14	10	10	8	16	5	13	12	9	4	12	6	10	7	5	6	11	9	18	8
Don't know	17	12	14	15	15	12	18	16	31	19	15	8	17	17	17	21	15	13	17	16	24	15

Would you support or oppose the Online Safety Bill giving media regulator Ofcom the power to hold an appointed senior manager at a technology company personally responsible by law, and potentially face punishment, if the company is found to be failing to take all reasonable steps to do the following?

Stopping child sexual abuse / grooming being carried out on their platforms

Strongly support	68	70	68	62	67	73	64	72	56	65	72	77	65	73	67	65	74	72	68	66	52	73
Tend to support	20	19	23	25	22	17	22	19	25	22	19	16	23	16	21	26	14	18	19	23	29	18
TOTAL SUPPORT	88	89	91	87	89	90	86	91	81	87	91	93	88	89	88	91	88	90	87	89	81	91
Tend to oppose	4	5	2	7	3	5	5	3	5	5	3	3	5	3	4	4	5	0	5	4	8	3
Strongly oppose	1	1	2	0	2	2	3	0	2	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	0	3	0
TOTAL OPPOSE	5	6	4	7	5	7	8	3	7	7	4	3	7	4	5	5	7	2	7	4	11	3
Don't know	6	4	6	5	6	3	7	6	12	6	6	4	6	7	6	4	5	9	6	6	8	6

Removing child sexual abuse material from their platforms

Strongly support	73	74	72	69	72	77	69	76	64	68	76	82	69	77	72	68	78	79	73	70	58	78
Tend to support	16	16	18	19	18	14	18	14	19	17	17	11	18	13	16	23	14	13	15	18	23	13
TOTAL SUPPORT	89	90	90	88	90	91	87	90	83	85	93	93	87	90	88	91	92	92	88	88	81	91
Tend to oppose	4	5	3	10	4	4	6	3	4	7	2	3	6	2	5	4	4	0	4	4	9	3
Strongly oppose	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	4	3	1	1	1
TOTAL OPPOSE	5	6	4	11	5	5	8	4	6	9	3	3	8	3	6	5	5	4	7	5	10	4
Don't know	6	4	6	2	5	3	5	6	11	6	5	3	5	7	6	4	4	4	5	7	8	5

Stopping children from being exposed to inappropriate/harmful content on their platforms (i.e pornography, suicide and self harm)

Strongly support	64	69	63	58	62	70	58	70	48	60	69	76	59	72	64	61	66	72	67	60	50	70
Tend to support	22	20	24	28	25	19	25	19	29	24	21	16	25	18	22	30	21	17	21	23	26	20
TOTAL SUPPORT	86	89	87	86	87	89	83	89	77	84	90	92	84	90	86	91	87	89	88	83	76	90
Tend to oppose	5	5	5	10	6	4	6	5	7	8	2	3	7	3	6	4	6	2	5	5	13	4
Strongly oppose	2	1	3	0	1	3	3	0	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	4	1
TOTAL OPPOSE	7	6	8	10	7	7	9	5	9	10	4	4	9	4	8	5	9	4	7	7	17	5
Don't know	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	6	13	6	6	4	6	7	7	5	4	7	6	9	8	5

Sample Size: 1723 adults in UK who consented to answer questions about children's online safety
Fieldwork: 26th - 27th April 2023

	Vote in 2019 GE				EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Social Grade		Country				Region in England			
Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem		Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	England	Wales	Scotland	Nothern Ireland	North	Midlands	London	South
Weighted Sample 1704	529	411	146		616	625	799	905	185	730	413	374	992	712	1433	78	147	46	413	267	202	551
Unweighted Sample 1723	538	436	143		703	645	774	949	172	764	422	365	1038	685	1441	85	153	44	411	266	223	541
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

The "metaverse" is a way of physically experiencing the internet using virtual reality (VR) equipment. By putting on a VR headset, people can play, work and interact with each other in a three-dimensional computer-generated environment.

How confident are you, if at all, that children's safety has been a priority in the development of the metaverse?

Very confident	4	4	5	8	4	4	6	4	4	8	2	1	5	3	5	3	2	8	5	3	11	3
Fairly confident	9	8	10	5	8	10	12	7	13	11	9	4	9	10	9	4	7	16	9	9	12	8
TOTAL CONFIDENT	13	12	15	13	12	14	18	11	17	19	11	5	14	13	14	7	9	24	14	12	23	11
Not very confident	37	41	34	34	36	40	36	38	36	33	39	43	38	36	37	34	37	37	41	35	34	36
Not at all confident	30	27	33	39	33	28	31	29	30	29	31	29	33	26	30	31	32	26	27	30	31	31
TOTAL NOT CONFIDENT	67	68	67	73	69	68	67	67	66	62	70	72	71	62	67	65	69	63	68	65	65	67
Don't know	20	20	17	15	18	18	15	23	17	19	20	23	15	26	19	27	21	13	18	22	11	22

Do you think companies should or should not be required by law to prove they have assessed VR products for child safety risks and mitigated any risks before they are allowed to be sold?

Should be required by law	80	85	80	81	84	83	73	86	70	77	82	89	80	80	79	84	85	76	78	80	72	83
Should not be required by law	8	6	8	10	7	8	14	3	12	11	7	3	11	5	9	6	4	15	7	10	17	6
Don't know	12	9	11	9	9	9	12	11	19	12	11	8	10	15	12	9	11	9	15	10	12	11

Thinking about platforms that have virtual reality, do you think they should or should not be required by law to have a senior manager who is appointed legal responsible for assessing and mitigating child safety?

Should be required by law	74	77	74	75	79	75	68	79	63	72	76	80	74	73	73	75	81	76	72	71	66	77
Should not be required by law	10	9	11	11	8	11	15	5	12	12	7	6	13	6	10	8	5	11	9	9	19	8
Don't know	16	14	16	14	13	14	17	16	24	16	16	14	13	21	17	16	14	13	19	20	15	15

Sample Size: 1723 adults in UK who consented to answer questions about children's online safety
Fieldwork: 26th - 27th April 2023

	Vote in 2019 GE				EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Social Grade		Country				Region in England			
	Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	North	Midlands	London	South
Weighted Sample	1704	529	411	146	616	625	799	905	185	730	413	374	992	712	1433	78	147	46	413	267	202	551
Unweighted Sample	1723	538	436	143	703	645	774	949	172	764	422	365	1038	685	1441	85	153	44	411	266	223	541
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

As mentioned, in virtual realities like the metaverse, players can interact with each other. Thinking about these interactive experiences, how likely, if at all, do you think the following are to happen?

Grooming in virtual reality

Very likely	46	49	46	48	49	49	40	52	33	43	50	55	47	45	46	42	48	55	43	49	39	49
Fairly likely	32	31	34	32	32	30	34	30	38	35	29	26	33	30	32	27	37	25	30	35	31	32
TOTAL LIKELY	78	80	80	80	81	79	74	82	71	78	79	81	80	75	78	69	85	80	73	84	70	81
Not very likely	6	6	5	9	5	6	9	4	7	7	5	4	6	6	7	6	1	4	8	3	14	5
Not at all likely	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	5	1	1	1	2	1	2	5	0	2	2	1	3	1
TOTAL NOT LIKELY	8	7	7	11	6	7	11	5	12	8	6	5	8	7	9	11	1	6	10	4	17	6
Don't know	14	13	13	9	13	14	15	14	16	14	15	13	12	17	14	21	14	15	17	12	13	13

Sexual harassment and assault in virtual reality

Very likely	42	44	43	42	44	45	38	45	30	41	43	48	43	40	42	34	44	48	41	44	38	43
Fairly likely	34	34	36	36	35	32	35	33	38	35	34	30	36	31	34	37	34	31	31	35	33	36
TOTAL LIKELY	76	78	79	78	79	77	73	78	68	76	77	78	79	71	76	71	78	79	72	79	71	79
Not very likely	7	6	7	7	6	6	9	6	13	7	6	6	6	9	8	5	3	6	11	4	15	5
Not at all likely	2	1	2	2	1	1	3	1	4	2	1	1	2	2	2	5	1	2	2	3	4	1
TOTAL NOT LIKELY	9	7	9	9	7	7	12	7	17	9	7	7	8	11	10	10	4	8	13	7	19	6
Don't know	15	14	14	13	14	15	15	15	15	14	16	15	12	19	14	20	18	13	15	14	10	16

Players being able to view age-inappropriate content (i.e. pornography)

Very likely	46	48	49	50	49	48	42	50	38	44	46	54	49	42	46	36	50	54	43	45	46	49
Fairly likely	32	32	32	32	30	31	33	30	36	33	32	27	32	31	32	37	29	25	32	35	32	30
TOTAL LIKELY	78	80	81	82	79	79	75	80	74	77	78	81	81	73	78	73	79	79	75	80	78	79
Not very likely	6	5	5	5	5	4	7	4	8	6	5	4	5	6	6	5	4	6	6	5	11	4
Not at all likely	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
TOTAL NOT LIKELY	7	6	6	5	6	5	9	4	9	7	6	5	6	7	7	6	5	8	7	6	12	5
Don't know	16	13	14	12	15	16	16	15	16	16	16	14	13	20	15	21	16	12	18	15	10	16