

BRECK'S LAST GAME

An education project to protect
your child from being groomed



What is Child Grooming?

- ▶ Child grooming refers to actions deliberately undertaken with the aim of befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a child, in order to lower the child's inhibitions in preparation for abuse or exploitation.



Lorin, Breck's mum explaining the project - watch the clip below

- ▶ Please see the attached video on our school website called: Lorin LaFave Message to Parents

Breck



Please watch the trailer on webpage you downloaded this presentation from

- ▶ The film is based on the real story of 14 year old Breck Bednar but it has been dramatised for use in this education project.
- ▶ The film will be shown to all secondary school pupils in the county, within a lesson plan where the issues the film raises can be explored and any concerns and questions addressed. There are two versions of the film - one for younger students (Y7/8) where a knife scene has been removed and one for older students (Y9-13) with it in.
- ▶ We're inviting you to view the trailer and the videos by Lorin Lehave as we feel it is important that you understand what your child has been discussing and therefore you can proactively support them by talking about the issues the film raises and any concerns or questions the film may lead your child to have.

What will my child be learning?

They will be learning about how to stay safe from grooming by using the Breck philosophy of:

- B** Be aware / believe
- R** Report / responsibility
- E** Educate / empower
- C** Communicate
- K** Know the signs / know who to talk to / keep safe

What support are we providing your child?

Within school: Form Tutor, Year Team Leader, AIT in G4, Mr Kneeshaw, Mr Armstrong, Mrs Greenaway and the Safeguarding Team.

Any of these will talk through any concerns a student might have about going online and keeping safe or if they believe that they may be being groomed currently.

Please let us know if you believe that due to current or past circumstances this may be distressing or triggering for your son and whether you want him to see the film. We can provide extra support if you still wish him to watch it.

Signposting to organisations that can help with concerns such as CEOP and Childline

Asking you to talk through this with your child

How do I have a conversation with my child about the film?

In advance of seeing the film talk to your child:

- Explain that they will be having a lesson at school about keeping safe online and that you'd like to talk to them about it afterwards so that you can agree what you will both do to keep them safe online.

In the 24 hours immediately after the viewing

- It will be important to speak to your child the evening that they have seen the film or as soon as possible after that if not, and create some time to find out what they thought of the film, are they worried about anything that is or has happened to themselves or any of their friends having had the lesson.
- Check if they have any questions or other worries.
- Agree what you will each do to help make sure your child stays safe online and what you'll both do if either of you has any concerns - including about their friends. Consider making a family contract.



NSPCC advice:

- It's important to think about where and how to talk so children will listen.
- There's no telling how long the conversation is going to last, so the first thing to consider is where and when you're going to start it off. And it's probably not a great idea to have it in the evening when people are tired and might not be in the mood to concentrate.
- Unless it's a chat you want to have with more than one child, it's also sensible to have it at a time when brothers and sisters aren't around to interrupt.
- It could be good to have it in a relaxed and neutral place like on a walk or a bike ride or even when you're in the car.
- Whatever it is you want to discuss, it's important to think about where and how to talk so children will listen.

- Start by asking questions that don't just have "yes" and "no" answers. This is going to give your child the chance to tell you what they really think. Then give them as long as they need to answer without interrupting. They may be nervous or still working out what they really think and that could take a little time.
- Don't be afraid to let your child ask you questions too. Be honest with them about how you feel about certain subjects and let them know about things that have happened to you in the past
- It's also really important to let them know that they can trust you to keep their confidence and that you want them to always feel they can talk to you, other people they trust or organisations like [Childline](#), when anything is worrying them.
- Let them say everything they want to say before you give any opinions or advice.
- If there is anything you can do, and if you plan to do it, let your child know. Otherwise they may feel like you're going behind their back and they should never have told you in the first place.

Grooming- Why does it happen?

- ▶ The aim is to build an emotional connection with a child with a view to gaining their trust
- ▶ This is traditionally seen to be for sexual purposes.
- ▶ However, grooming techniques are also used to get people involved in both drugs and crime and radicalisation / extremism.

There are some common models of grooming that police describe as:

▶ THE RELATIONSHIP/PEER MODEL

- ▶ This type of grooming explains how perpetrators often befriend young people and make them believe they are in a loving 'relationship' or friendship and then coerce them to have sex with friends or associates. Peer to peer grooming can sometimes be associated with gang activity, where the young person doing the grooming is a victim themselves.
- ▶ Whilst this definition is widely referred to as the 'Boyfriend Model', it's worth bearing in mind that this does not take into account the fact that boys and young men can also be sexually exploited in this way.

▶ ORGANISED/NETWORK MODEL & TRAFFICKING MODEL

- ▶ This type of exploitation includes sex trafficking of young people, sometimes across the country or internationally or even just between houses or hotels, sometimes as part of an organised network of 'buying and selling' of the sexual services of young people by perpetrators. Some young people involved in the organised network may also be used themselves to recruit other young people into the network. This model usually involves numerous victims and perpetrators and is the most widely reported in the media.

▶ **INAPPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIP MODEL**

- ▶ This usually involves one perpetrator who has inappropriate power or control over a young person - one indicator could be a significant age gap or a person in a position of authority exploiting a young person for sex. The young person may believe they are in a loving relationship.

▶ **GANGS MODEL**

- ▶ There is still limited understanding of gang models in child sexual exploitation. This can include sexual exploitation through gang initiation rituals, gang pressure or as punishment for crossing areas/boundaries. It is also worth considering that many gang members can also be victims themselves.

Child sexual exploitation can occur in different ways and in different situations, through:

Building a relationship

Communication through various platforms - gaming, social media, chat rooms

Finding out about the individual

Using information to target children

Arranging to meet in person or facilitating online abuse



- Grooming is about building a relationship with a child in order to later abuse and / or exploit them. This can be far easier online.
- Games, social media, live streaming platforms and chatrooms enable people to make contact with children to try to groom them.
- They can create multiple online identities and even pretend to be children and young people to trick real children into chatting and sharing.
- They can find out a lot about individual children before they make contact by looking at the things the child has posted.
- Using this information they can target children who are particularly vulnerable and carefully plan what they will say and show an interest in.
- They can also contact lots of children very quickly in the hope that one will respond.

Grooming can also happen offline

- The groomer can be a stranger or someone they already know and the grooming can happen online or in person.
- Often this is done by finding out information about a potential victim and trying to establish the likelihood that a child will report them.
- They then try and isolate their victim and may use tactics like flattery and gifts to build a rapport or even threats and intimidation to gain control.
- They can use chat rooms focusing on children's interests or social media to make contact and often pretend to be younger than they are.

What are some of the signs of online child grooming?

- ▶ Secretive behaviour about what they are doing online
- ▶ Having older boyfriends or girlfriends
- ▶ Going to unusual places to meet up with friends
- ▶ They suddenly have new things like clothes or phones which they can't explain
- ▶ They have access to drugs and alcohol
- ▶ Inappropriate sexual behaviour for their age
- ▶ They may become more withdrawn, anxious, depressed or aggressive
- ▶ Alternatively they can become more clingy, have problems sleeping and eating or can wet the bed

When does grooming break the law?

It is now a criminal offence for anyone aged 18 or over to intentionally communicate with a child under 16, where the person acts for a sexual purpose and the communication is sexual or intended to elicit a sexual response.

The offence applies to online and offline communication, including social media, e-mail, texts, letters, etc.

It is important to be aware that groomers don't always have a sexual motive and sometimes want their victim to break the law for them, such as running drugs, or for extremism and terrorism.

You don't need to wait for a criminal act to occur to report your concerns or to talk to your child about the risks they may be facing however some things do break the law and should always be reported.

The offence includes:

- An adult exposing themselves on webcam

- Engaging a child in chat about sexual acts and fantasies

- Telling a child to watch pornographic images/videos

- Telling a child to perform a sexual act or expose themselves



What can I do to protect my child?

- ▶ Look out for your child moving to new platforms to chat
- ▶ Use webcam and devices in public spaces.
- ▶ Encourage your child to identify safe and trusted adults.
- ▶ Make sure your child knows where to go for support.



Look out for your child moving to new platforms to chat

- ▶ Offenders sometimes encourage young people to move from a public forum, to a game, or more private chat apps or sites.
- ▶ Here, they are able to have private conversations that are likely to be less moderated. It's always a good idea to remind your child to be wary of people who want them to chat privately.
- ▶ Have conversations with your child about the new apps they are using and who they may be talking to.
- ▶ You can also find information on [parental controls](#) to help you to [keep track of the apps](#) your child may be installing and ways you can keep them safe.

Use webcam and devices in public spaces

- ▶ As young people develop, they often seek more privacy and autonomy in both their online and offline world.
- ▶ However, it's important to consider whether your child is developmentally ready to be left unsupervised whilst gaming or chatting.
- ▶ In particular, younger children can struggle to identify risks they may face whilst online and require supervision to learn these skills.
- ▶ Encourage young people to use their devices in spaces where some level of supervision is possible, for example, a family room or living room.

Encourage your child to identify safe and trusted adults

- ▶ In their offline world, children are often taught to do as they are told and follow adult instruction. From teachers to parents, most young people are socialised to accept adults authority.
- ▶ Some offenders rely on this acceptance and use young people's trust in adults to harm them.
- ▶ Help your child to identify adults that are there to help them from ones who they do not know.
- ▶ Encourage their digital literacy by helping them to identify sources on the internet that they can trust and places they should be more cautious.
- ▶ Reinforce the idea that on the internet, adults should not be giving young people instructions or telling them what to do.
- ▶ Young people should ask someone they trust if they are unsure.
- ▶ Visit [Thinkuknow](#) for information on how to help develop your child's digital resilience.

Make sure your child knows where to go for support

- Children can sometimes feel partly to blame if something goes wrong online. Remind your child that they can always speak to an adult they trust if they are worried no matter what may have happened.
- Take time to know [how to report on social media sites and apps](#) to prevent offenders continuing to harm.

If your child is engaged in sexualised contact they might react in many different ways from excitement to distress, but they may also feel guilty.

It can be helpful for your child to know who to talk to if something does go wrong, and it can help to suggest taking a break from an app for a period of time.

This can help them learn from what happened, rather than banning them from the internet all together

How to report concerns

- ▶ In Northampton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by calling **0300 126 1000**
- ▶ To the Child Exploitation Online Protection Agency ([CEOP](#))
- ▶ Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme via your local police
- ▶ You can also talk to your child about their options
- ▶ Find out more information about grooming and staying safe at [thinkuknow.co.uk](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

How to report concerns



Contact the **Child Safeguarding Team** on

0300 126 1000

or **Northamptonshire Police** on **101**

or **999** in an emergency

northamptonshirescb.org.uk/cse



A National
Crime Agency
command

Child Exploitation and Online Protection command

If you need to hide this site
quickly, just click here



Quick exit

Are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you online?

Make a report to one of CEOP's Child Protection Advisors

Should I make a report to CEOP? →

If you're worried about online abuse or
the way someone has been
communicating online, let CEOP know.



What happens when I make a report? →

One of our experienced Child Protection
Advisors will be there to make sure you
get the help that you need.



How can CEOP help me? →

Online abuse affects many children and
young people every day, CEOP has
helped thousands of people in need of
support.



GET SUPPORT

You can contact Childline about anything. Whatever your worry, it's better out than in. We're here to support you and help you find ways to cope.

There are lots of different ways to get in touch with us. And you can also get help from other young people through our site.

CALL, CHAT ONLINE OR EMAIL US



Call free on 0800 1111

The quickest way to get through to a counsellor. Talk to Childline from any phone for free without needing credit or it showing on the phone bill.



Log in for a 1-2-1 counsellor chat

Talk to a counsellor in a safe online chat. While waiting for a counsellor to be available you can look at other things that might help like videos and games.



Send an email

Use your Childline locker to send an email to a counsellor. You'll get a reply within a day. And you can write again whenever you want.

A safer internet starts with you...

- ▶ It starts with an open and honest dialogue.
- ▶ It starts with a balanced approach.
- ▶ It starts with using the tools available to help you.
- ▶ It starts with knowing where to get help.
- ▶ It starts with a family agreement.

It starts with an open and honest dialogue...

- ▶ Talk regularly with your child about how they use technology, and find out what their digital life is like, including what their favourite sites and services are and also how being online makes them feel.
- ▶ Not sure where to begin?
- ▶ Have a look online for [conversation starters for parents](#)
e.g. <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2018/sid2018-education-packs/education-pack-parents-and-carers> or
<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation>

It starts with a balanced approach...

- ▶ As parents it's natural to feel worried about the risks posed by your child being online, but for young people the online world is exciting and fun, as it brings so many opportunities for them.
- ▶ Connect with your child by asking them to share with you their favourite things to do online, as well as discussing the risks they might come across.
- ▶ Use the quick activities designed for families from the Safer Internet Day (SID).

It starts with using the tools available to help you...

- ▶ There are lots of tools to help you manage the devices used by your family. For example, knowing how to activate and use parental controls can help protect your child from seeing inappropriate content online.
- ▶ For advice and guidance on how to make use of parental controls and other safety features on devices, check out the SID free [Parents' Guide to Technology](#) and see more advice in their [advice centre for parents and carers](#).

It starts with knowing where to get help...

- ▶ It can sometimes feel like young people are the experts in all things online, but remember - you are the life experts.
- ▶ You are always there to help your child but make sure you know how to get support too by visiting the SID [Need Help? page](#).
- ▶ You can find [more information](#) about how you can help your child stay safe online by using features such as privacy settings on social media and understanding how to make a report on a range of apps, games and services.

It starts with a family agreement...

- ▶ The online world is an increasingly large part of modern family life, so it makes sense to approach it as a family too.
- ▶ Why not make a pledge together on how as a family you're going to use the internet safely and positively?
- ▶ If you need help with this, have a look at the UK Safer Internet Centre [family pledge card](#) for a great way to ensure that everyone is on the same page.

Helpful Resources for parents:

- ▶ Internet Matters <https://www.internetmatters.org>
- ▶ Parent Info <http://parentinfo.org/search/node/online%20grooming>
- ▶ BBC Parent Online: Know your child <http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/0/25879514>
- ▶ PACE <http://paceuk.info/>
- ▶ CEOP <https://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>
- ▶ Barnado's
http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/our_work/sexual_exploitation.htm
- ▶ Think you know <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- ▶ Safer Internet Day resources for families: www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2018/sid2018-education-packs/education-pack-parents-and-carers
- ▶ Educate Against Hate <https://educateagainsthate.com/>