

The 4 C's of Online Safety

The new classification of risk when online includes the 4Cs.

The new CO:RE 4Cs classification recognises that online risks arise when a child:

(CORE – Children online, research and evidence)

- engages with and/or is exposed to potentially harmful **CONTENT**;
- experiences and/or is targeted by potentially harmful **CONTACT**;
- witnesses, participates in and/or is a victim of potentially harmful **CONDUCT**;
- is party to and/or exploited by a potentially harmful **CONTRACT / COMMERCE**

	Content Child as recipient	Contact Child as participant	Conduct Child as actor	Contract Child as consumer
Aggressive	Violent, gory, graphic, racist, hateful and extremist content	Harassment, stalking, hateful behaviour, unwanted surveillance	Bullying, hateful or hostile peer activity e.g. trolling, exclusion, shaming	Identity theft, fraud, phishing, scams, gambling, blackmail, security risks
Sexual	Pornography (legal and illegal), sexualization of culture, body image norms	Sexual harassment, sexual grooming, generation and sharing of child sexual abuse material	Sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual messages, sexual pressures	Sextortion, trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation, streaming child sexual abuse
Values	Age-inappropriate user-generated or marketing content, mis/disinformation	Ideological persuasion, radicalization and extremist recruitment	Potentially harmful user communities e.g. self-harm, anti-vaccine, peer pressures	Information filtering, profiling bias, polarisation, persuasive design
Cross-cutting	Privacy and data protection abuses, physical and mental health risks, forms of discrimination			

