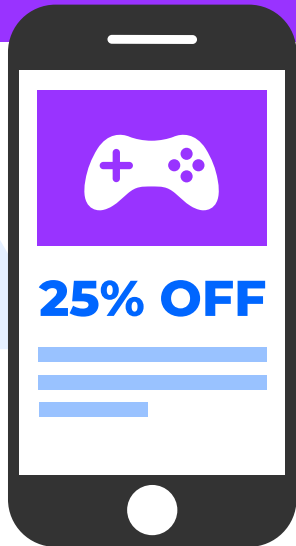


How to protect young people from social scams

internet
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 BARCLAYS



Talk to children about the issue using news stories to start conversations

- When there is a story in the news about the latest online scam then **share this with the whole family** – don't just target young people as anyone can be affected by these things and the more we talk about online issues the more natural and normal it will become!

Encourage young people to check their privacy settings on their social media accounts

- **Most social media platforms and popular apps are public by default**, but most will allow users to control their privacy for example choosing who can see their content or who can contact them. You can find information on [how to access these privacy settings here](#). Once the privacy settings are in place it is still important to remind children and young people to think carefully before sharing too much information.

Encourage young people to be more critical about the ads they see on social media

- Adverts on social media will often look genuine and encourage you to click to visit their website to make a purchase, **it is especially important to make sure that you are on the site that you think you are on**. If in doubt, then browse to the site yourself rather than relying on a link in the advert. [Also, have a read of our online critical thinking guide to help young people learn how to make smarter choices online.](#)

If you are in any doubt about whether an offer or a post is genuine then visit the website yourself

- **Encourage young people not to click on any links in a social media post or email** – type in the address, login if necessary and see whether the offer or claim is indeed genuine.

Reinforce the importance of protecting personal data

- **Remind young people that their bank will NEVER ask them to provide online banking password details** or a One-Time-Passcode if they are using two-factor authentication via an email or social media platform, nor will their bank ever ask them to transfer funds to a safe account or say their money is at risk.

Always report if something looks like a scam

- If you or your children become aware of something that looks suspicious online, then it is important to act. **Report it to the platform** ([you can find out how to do that here](#)) and you can also report to [Action Fraud](#). Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime and is the place where we should report scams if we live in England, Wales, or Northern Ireland. In Scotland this can be reported directly to the [police](#).

