

# What does the risk rating mean?

Everyone who uses the internet is exposed to some level of risk. The level of risk can vary depending on the activities someone engages in and the security measures taken. The risk rating is designed to give you an indication of how safe your child's online behaviour is.

This rating is based on your child's answers to questions about their experiences and behaviour in the Crime Survey for England and Wales. This rating is only based on the types of **online experiences and behaviour** asked about in the survey. It cannot account for any offline experiences or behaviour covered in the survey, or any online experiences, behaviour or activity that are not covered in the survey. The rating relies on the answers given by the child and may not cover every aspect of their online experiences or activity.

<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>A low risk rating means:</b> The answers given suggest that your child is taking reasonable precautions when experiencing or engaging in the types of online activity covered in the survey.
<b>Medium Risk</b>	<b>A medium risk rating means:</b> The answers given suggest that your child is taking some precautions when experiencing or engaging in the types of online activity covered in the survey, but some of their experiences or activities might open them up to risk.
<b>High Risk</b>	<b>A high risk rating means:</b> The answers given suggest that your child may have had a negative experience online, either as a result of how others have behaved online, or through some potentially risky online behaviour they have engaged in.

## How do we calculate the risk rating?

This rating is calculated using scores assigned to answers which suggest a level of risk. We calculate a risk rating of low, medium, or high for each section in the module. These sections are; online bullying, speaking to strangers, meeting strangers, sending, and receiving images of a sexual nature. The highest rating across all these sections is then taken as the overall risk rating for your child.

## What should I do next?

If you are concerned about this rating, it may be useful to talk to your child about how to stay safe online. The NSPCC can provide help and support for parents about online safety. Information is available on their website or by calling 0808 800 5000.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

## Where can I find more information?

To look in more detail at the questions used to calculate the risk rating you can visit [www.crimesurvey.co.uk/inhome/en/10-15yearOldsSurvey.html](http://www.crimesurvey.co.uk/inhome/en/10-15yearOldsSurvey.html)

For information on how to help your child stay safe online, visit [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) or [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

## Contact us

If you have further questions, please contact the Survey Enquiry Line at the Office for National Statistics on 0800 085 7376.