

INEQE HAVE PRODUCED ADVICE FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND PROFESSIONALS ABOUT THE HARMS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WATCHING ADULT ANIMATIONS.

Are all animated cartoon style videos suitable for children and young people?

- As the style of these animations is similar to other videos they view, children and young people may click onto content without realising it contains harmful material.
- Even after viewing, a child may not realise how problematic the behaviour they've viewed is if they believe they are watching an age-appropriate cartoon.
- Children and young people may copy behaviours and language they have viewed.
- When exposed to inappropriate content, such as sexualised content, children may struggle to explain to an adult what they have seen and/or what is upsetting them, or they may worry they will get into trouble.

What you can do:

- **Stay calm.** If you suspect the child or young person in your care has watched inappropriate cartoon-style content, don't panic. Approach them calmly, ask open questions and listen. Importantly, avoid mentioning animations by name as you may be alerting them to something they knew nothing about.
- **Talk to them.** If you know for sure they have viewed inappropriate content, ask them to explain what they have seen and give them space to tell you in their own words. It may be emotional or embarrassing to discuss, but being able to talk through complex feelings in a supportive environment will help them.
- **Never leave the safeguarding to someone else.** Even though platforms like YouTube have age restrictions and moderators, they are not perfect and should not be relied upon to keep the child or young person in your care safe online.
- **Identify help.** It's important that children and young people have someone they can turn to for help, even if that person is not you. Use our [Trusted Adults](#) resource to highlight who these people are for them.
- **Check safety settings.** Ensure the correct safety settings are in place on the devices your child has access to and use the [Online Safety Centre](#) to learn how to restrict content, block and report on the platform.
- **Keep the conversation going.** Your child's online safety should be an ongoing discussion. Just as you would ask questions about their offline life, make their online experiences just as regular a topic in your household or the classroom.