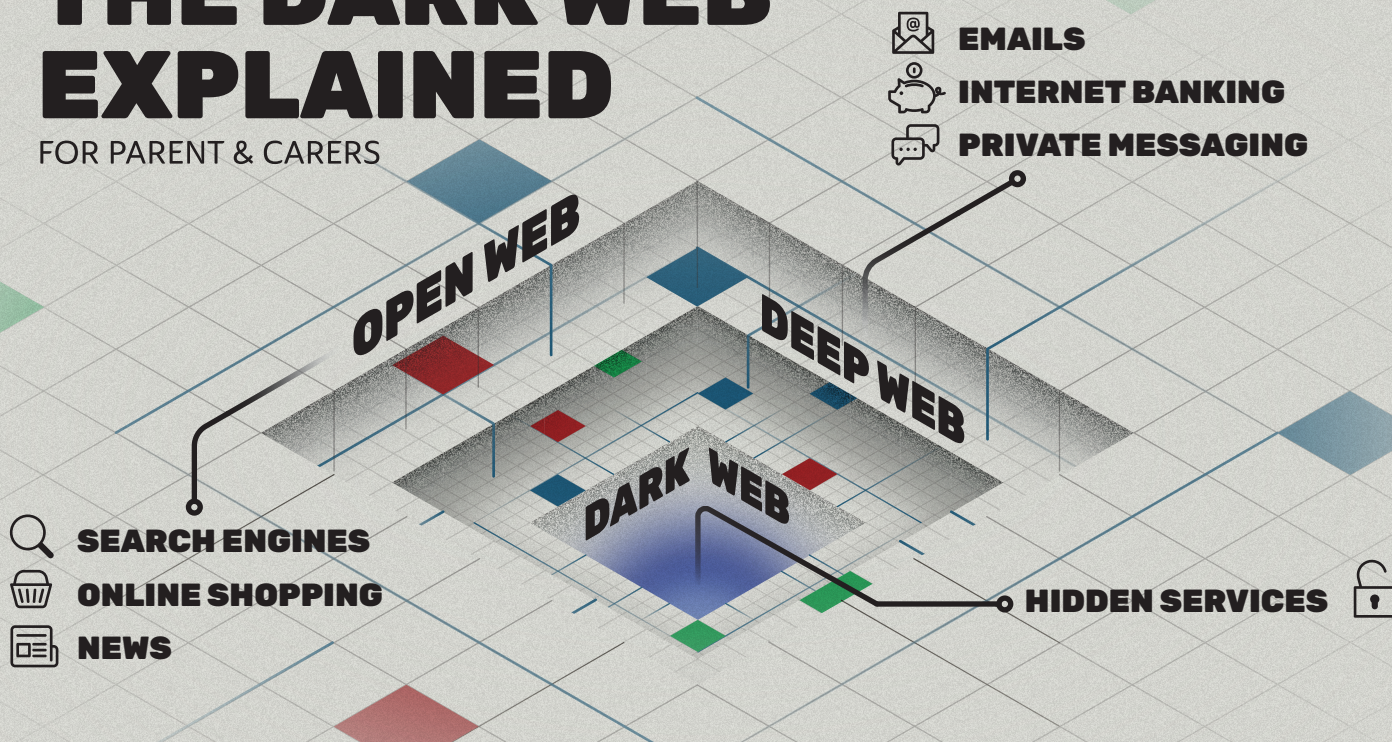


# THE DARK WEB EXPLAINED

FOR PARENT & CARERS



**Being aware of the Dark Web can help you have informed conversations and support your child if you are concerned.**

## WHAT IS THE DARK WEB?

There are three different parts of the internet: the Open Web, the Deep Web and the Dark Web.

The Dark Web is the hidden part of the internet. Dark Web sites do not appear on search engines and can only be accessed using a dedicated anonymity software such as Tor.

This software protects the identity of the website and the user and can be used to browse the Open Web anonymously or to access Dark Web sites known as hidden services.

Although the Dark Web is often linked to criminal or illegal content, it is not illegal to access the Dark Web, or to download anonymity software.

## WHY MIGHT YOUR CHILD ACCESS THE DARK WEB?

There are a number of reasons why your child might want to use the Dark Web. These include:

- Curiosity about technology and the online world.
- Privacy concerns.
- Accessing illegal content or services.
- Because they have been coerced or forced to access the Dark Web by someone else.

Whatever the reason for accessing the Dark Web, the potential risks are the same as those on the Open Web. This includes exposure to harmful or illegal content and people who may seek to harm children.



Have you watched our Dark Web Explained video? Watch to find out more about the Dark Web and what to do if you have concerns about your child using it.

[thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/dark-web-explained](https://thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/dark-web-explained)



# WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD HAS ACCESSED THE DARK WEB

## 1 REMAIN CALM

Try not to make assumptions. If you're angry or worried, it may stop your child from telling you why they have accessed the Dark Web.

Remain non-judgmental and don't blame your child for anything that may have happened while on the Dark Web. Remind them that you want to make sure they are safe and supported.

## 2 ASK QUESTIONS

Ask sensitive, open-ended questions. If you don't know much about the Dark Web, don't be afraid to say. Ask your child to explain it to you.

Seek to understand more. You want your child to feel that they can share their thoughts and feelings about their experience using the Dark Web without getting in trouble.

## 3 SEEK SUPPORT

If you are concerned for your child's immediate safety you must call the police on **999**.

You may wish to contact your child's school to help support you and your child.

For further advice and support about your concerns, you can call the [NSPCC Helpline](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/08008005000) on **0808 800 5000**.

## CONVERSATION STARTERS

Why did you want to go on the Dark Web?

Has there been a time when you were on the Dark Web that you felt uncomfortable or unsure about?

Tell me about what you saw on the Dark Web?

How did you access the Dark Web?

Do you think you will go on the Dark Web again?

Not all young people will want to access the Dark Web.

Only talk to your child about the Dark Web if you know they have used it or are interested in accessing it.

## STEPS TO KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFER ONLINE

**Have regular conversations** about the internet and what they like to do online. Keep it open and non-judgmental. Let them know you want to learn about their online interests and if possible, ask them to show you. Regular conversations are better than a one-off chat, as it shows your child they can talk to you at any time if something worries them.

**Help your child to identify trusted adults** they can go to if they have any worries or concerns. This could be you or another adult like a teacher or youth worker. If they feel more comfortable talking confidentially, let them know there are other options to get support.

**Let them know support is available.**

Your child may find it difficult to tell you about their experiences, or about something that has happened online. For further support, your child can:

- Report concerns about online sexual abuse to the [CEOP Safety Centre](https://www.ceop.gov.uk).
- Report nude images shared online to Childline and Internet Watch Foundation's [Report Remove](https://www.iwf.com) tool.
- Call or message [Childline](https://www.childline.gov.uk) if they are worried and want someone to talk to.

For more resources to help keep your child safer online visit:  
[thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)