

Curious or Crossing the Line?

A message to anyone testing
the limits online and to those
who've gone too far

What is hacking and cybercrime?

Hacking is when someone gets into a system, account, or device without permission even if they don't damage anything.

Cybercrime is any illegal activity done online, from stealing data or money to spreading viruses, scamming people, or taking over accounts.

Both can start small but they can lead to serious legal trouble, even for teens.

**Need help? Visit our resource hub or
speak to a trusted adult**



Childline – 0800 1111 – childline.org.uk

The Mix – themix.org.uk

Ditch the Label – ditchthelabel.org

Report Harmful Content – reportharmfulcontent.com

What counts as hacking?

- Guessing or using someone else's password
- Installing software to access or control someone else's computer
- Using tools that bypass rules or steal info
- Comes out of nowhere or feels 'off'

Even if you didn't mean to hurt anyone - it's still illegal under the Computer Misuse Act.

What could happen?

- ➔ You could face police action
- ➔ Your computer may be taken
- ➔ Trouble at school
- ➔ It could block future jobs or travel

Safer paths to explore tech:

Join a
coding club

Try ethical
hacking
challenges

Use skills to
help others stay
safe online

Learn
cybersecurity
the right way

If You've Already Shared Something...

Stop. Don't share it. Tell someone you trust.

Owning up early can stop things getting worse.