



## **DRAGON-Shield: Online Grooming Prevention and Support**

### **Online Training Course**

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## Course Name and Description

**DRAGON-Shield: Online grooming prevention and support** is brought to you by DRAGON [<https://www.swansea.ac.uk/project-dragons/>]. It is the only training in existence that focuses on how online child sexual grooming communication works. DRAGON-Shield supports child safeguarding practitioners in keeping children safe online by sharing the latest knowledge, based on expert research, about groomers' language manipulation, children's communicative behaviour and groomer <-> child interactions with the support of original animations, audio-visual explainers and interactive quizzes.

DRAGON-Shield is intended for:

- Social workers
- Youth Work Providers
- Educators
- Third sector workers (child-facing roles)
- Youth mental health workers
- Law Enforcement/Police
- Hotline analysts
- Child helpline counsellors



# DRAGON-SHIELD

Overview	
Course Name:	<b>DRAGON-Shield: Online grooming prevention and support</b>
Course Length:	<b>4-5 hours</b>
Course access:	Available for <b>3 months</b> from first log in
Certification:	<b>Yes</b> , downloadable upon completion
Criteria:	There are <b>no academic pre-requisites</b> required for this course. However, the training is <b>only available to child safeguarding practitioners</b> . Prospective trainees will be asked to complete an expression of interest form to collect details of professional role and safeguarding responsibilities. Approved trainees will be notified.
Method of Delivery:	<b>Independent online learning</b> (online training platform)
Accessibility:	<p><b>Web browser</b> (not downloadable), therefore internet connection is required – <b>do not access via mobile phones or small tablets</b>. Videos are not compatible with Safari web browser (Google Chrome, Firefox, Edge are recommended). An email address is required to create an account. Noting that some organisational email servers may block emails from the DRAGON-Shield training platform, please keep an eye on junk/spam folders.</p> <p>DRAGON-Shield has been created to <b>accommodate different learning styles</b>, utilising mixed media. You may require headphones to listen to the audiovisual content included (explainer videos and digital animations). There are also captions available to read if you require for all audio-visual content, which can be played as many times as required.</p> <p>Your chosen web browser settings can be adapted to increase/decrease font size where required.</p>
Method of Assessment:	<p><b>End of module assessments</b> (8 total).  <b>Final, end of training assessment.</b>            Assessments are all multiple-choice.            80% or more pass rate on each assessment to progress to next phase or complete training.</p>
Download:	There is a downloadable <b>resource pack</b> available to use for 'prevention/support-in-practice'. This can be used once the training has been completed. In addition, there is a wellbeing and resource library to refer to throughout the training.
Cost:	£125 per person (Group & Organisation discounts are available. Contact us at <a href="mailto:project.dragons@swansea.ac.uk">project.dragons@swansea.ac.uk</a> to discuss these options further)



# DRAGON-SHIELD

<b>Enrolment instructions:</b>	If you are interested in completing the training, please complete an expression of interest ( <a href="https://swanseasom.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b17tpJmZU6UIeWO">https://swanseasom.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b17tpJmZU6UIeWO</a> ).  You may also contact us at <a href="mailto:project.dragons@swansea.ac.uk">project.dragons@swansea.ac.uk</a>  We will then contact you to advise of next steps, including how to set up an account and log in.
<b>Refresher/Top-up:</b>	Not currently available.

## Course Details

You can use DRAGON-Shield at your own pace and in any way that best suits you over a 3-month period. The training is designed to save your progress as you go, meaning that you can resume where you last finished each time you log in. Each module takes around 30 minutes to complete, meaning that, in total, DRAGON-Shield requires 4-5 hours' time commitment.

You can revisit completed modules and audiovisual content as much as you wish during the 3-month training period. Audiovisual content can also be played and replayed to benefit your individual learning needs.

## Course Structure

DRAGON-Shield consists of four phases. You will need to complete each phase to advance onto the next. **Phase 1** introduces you to the concept of online grooming as communication, and how groomers and children use language during online grooming interactions. In **Phase 2**, you will learn about the tactics used by groomers to entrap the children they target. Completing the first 2 Phases will give you access to **Phase 3**: the online grooming conversation simulator. This resource will give you first-hand, "real-time" experience of what children encounter during an online grooming interaction. Lastly, **Phase 4** consists of a final assessment where, on achieving a score of 80% or higher, you will be able to download further resources relating to online child sexual grooming to help you in your professional work.



### **Phase 1: Online Grooming as Communication**

Phase 1 will introduce you to:

- The pivotal role that communication plays in online child sexual grooming.
- The concept of online grooming as two-way interaction.
- The problematic dichotomy around how children affected by online child sexual grooming are seen and a new way of understanding their experiences.
- The tactical toolkit that all groomers share.

**Duration:** Approximately 30 minutes.

### **Phase 2: Groomer Tactics**

Phase 2 consists of five modules, each of which introducing you to one key tactic used by groomers to entrap the children they target: Trust, Isolate, More, Entry, Sex.

**Duration:** Approximately 30 minutes per tactic.

### **Phase 3: Conversation Simulator**

Phase 3 is an optional resource within DRAGON-Shield: an online grooming conversation simulator.

This resource will give you the opportunity to:

- Experience online grooming conversations from the child's perspective in "real-time".
- Witness how the tactics and sub-tactics explored in the previous modules interact in "real world" online child sexual grooming interactions.

**Duration:** Approximately 30 minutes.

### **Phase 4: Assessment and Resources**

Phase 4 consists of a final assessment. On achieving a score of 80% or higher, you will be able to download:

- A certificate of training completion to use as evidence of your ongoing professional development.
- The DRAGON-Shield Resource Pack, which contains interactive exercises and materials that you can use when working with children to support prevention and / or protection.

**Duration:** Approximately 30 minutes.



## About Us

DRAGON [<https://www.swansea.ac.uk/project-dragon-s/>] is a not-for-profit team primarily based at [Swansea University](https://www.swansea.ac.uk) [<https://www.swansea.ac.uk>]. The name is an acronym that stands for **D**eveloping **R**esilience **A**gainst **G**rooming **O**nline with the **S** representing the two tools that the team has developed: an online grooming detector (DRAGON-**S**potter) and an online grooming prevention portal (DRAGON-**S**hield).

We are committed to applying ethical, rigorous research to counter the growing challenge of online child sexual grooming by combining expertise in Social Sciences (i.e., Linguistics, Criminology, Psychology and Public Policy) and Computer Science (i.e., Artificial Intelligence and Human-Computer Interaction) with software development to create human-centred, innovative technology that improves child safeguarding practices.

**Website:** <https://www.swansea.ac.uk/project-dragon-s/>

**Email:** [Project.dragons@Swansea.ac.uk](mailto:Project.dragons@Swansea.ac.uk)

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/ProjectDragon\\_s](https://twitter.com/ProjectDragon_s)

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/project-dragon-s/>

## About Our Partners/Collaborators

DRAGON-Shield has been co-produced in partnership with hundreds of individuals (child safeguarding practitioners, lived experience experts, academic researchers, and children and young people) from Wales, England, Scotland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the USA. We would like to sincerely thank everybody who has helped to shape this online training portal.