

# POSH – Grooming Escalation Playbook

- 1. Targeting – Offenders look for children in games, chats, or social platforms who seem lonely, curious, or unsupervised.
- 2. Trust Building – The predator becomes friendly, supportive, and shares interests with the child.
- 3. Isolation – They encourage moving conversations to private apps such as Discord, Snapchat, Telegram, or private servers.
- 4. Dependency – The child begins to rely on the offender for emotional validation or friendship.
- 5. Escalation – Conversations become more personal, secretive, or sexualised.
- 6. Control – The offender may use manipulation, threats, guilt, or secrecy to maintain influence over the child.
- 7. Exploitation – The predator may attempt to obtain images, private information, or arrange real-world contact.

Golden Rule: If someone asks a child to move a conversation off a game platform to a private messaging app, parents should treat this as a major red flag.