# Stephen Graham warns parents about the dangers of the internet for children



Stephen Graham, the acclaimed actor and co-writer of the Netflix series "Adolescence," has issued a cautionary note to parents regarding the potential dangers posed by the internet to their children. At 51 years old, Graham plays the role of Eddie Miller, the father of Jamie Miller, a 13-year-old boy accused of the brutal murder of a young girl. The series is notable for its innovative storytelling, as it is filmed in one continuous take, with each episode capturing characters in real time as they grapple with the unfolding incident.

The narrative of "Adolescence" delves into various contemporary issues, including incel culture, misogyny, and the online “manosphere,” themes that were sparked by reports of real-life violence involving young boys and girls. “I read an article about a young boy stabbing a young girl,” Graham told The Independent. “And then maybe a couple of months later, on the news, there was [another] young boy who'd stabbed a young girl, and if I'm really honest with you, they hurt my heart.”

In discussing the series, Graham emphasised the multifaceted influences that shape the lives of young people today. He urged parents to be “mindful” of these external factors, suggesting that they must consider that parenting and schooling are not the only influences impacting their children. “It's just being mindful of the fact that not only we parent our children, and not only the school educates our children,” he stated. “But also there's influences that we have no idea of that are having profound effects on our young culture, profound effects, positive and extremely negative.”

The series also explores the broader societal factors at play, presenting its main character, Jamie, as hailing from an ordinary family background. “We wanted him to come from an ordinary family,” Graham explained. “We wanted to be mindful from the very beginning that there was no way you could point the finger. Dad wasn't particularly violent in the house and didn't raise his hand to mum or the boy or his daughter. Mum wasn't an alcoholic. Jamie wasn't abused sexually or mentally or physically.”

This narrative raises complex questions about accountability. “Who is to blame? Who is accountable?” asks Graham. “And the answer is not straightforward. Maybe we're all accountable—family, school, society, community, environment.”

He elaborated on the interplay between home environments and influences from the outside world, stating that the distinction between the “microcosm of the home” and “the macrocosm of the world outside” has become increasingly blurred. “When we were kids, if you got sent to your room or if Kenny Everett was on the telly and it got a bit racy, you’d be sent to your room and then you couldn't watch it,” he reflected. “But today even within the context of that home, when lads and girls go to their bedrooms, they have the world at their fingertips.”

While "Adolescence" does not directly address figures such as Andrew Tate or the incel movement, this was a deliberate approach by writer Jack Thorne, who aimed to highlight the complexities surrounding influences on young individuals and to illuminate aspects of “male rage.” Thorne commented on contemporary viewing habits, stating, “The kids aren't watching Andrew Tate. They're watching a lot more dangerous stuff than Andrew Tate. We were trying to present a portrait of the complexity of this kid that had been made by all sorts of different influences and the thing about incel culture is there's a logic to it.”

The series has drawn attention for its challenging themes and unique storytelling method, positioning it as a significant work in contemporary television.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://graziadaily.co.uk/life/tv-and-film/is-adolescence-based-on-a-true-story/> - This article supports the claim that 'Adolescence' explores themes of incel culture and online radicalization, although it is not based on a true story. It highlights Stephen Graham's role in co-writing the series and his focus on modern masculinity.
* <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/tv/story/2025-03-11/stephen-graham-adolescence> - This piece corroborates the innovative storytelling technique of 'Adolescence,' which involves filming each episode in one continuous take. It also mentions the series' exploration of complex themes like knife crime and masculinity.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/stephen-graham-adolescence-netflix-incels-b2714352.html> - This article supports Stephen Graham's cautionary note to parents about internet dangers and the series' exploration of incel culture and misogyny. It highlights Graham's concern about external influences on children.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source provides the original context for Stephen Graham's statements about 'Adolescence,' including his role in the series and his concerns about societal influences on young people.
* <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf> - This document does not directly relate to 'Adolescence' but provides general information on legal procedures, which might be tangentially relevant to the legal themes in the series.