



In peril ... young girl on computer and, inset, Twitter page with links to filth Sun censored  
Picture posed by model

Exclusive

## Twitter: Unpoliced playground for paedos

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Published: 23 Oct 2009

**TWITTER has become a free and easy hunting ground for paedophiles seeking to lure kids for sex, experts believe.**

Their vile pursuit emerged in a Sun investigation into abuse of the ultra-successful blogging website.

Pornographic pictures of young girls are also freely available. Yet the site is completely unpoliced and uncensored.

*The Sun was shown an online conversation between a group of youngsters that had apparently been infiltrated by a pervert.*

He asked a 13-year-old boy, who had posted a photo of himself and his sister on Twitter: "What do you like to do? Where do you like to go?"

The boy replied: "Are you coming on to me?" The suspect said: "No, not at all. I'm just interested in finding out about you."

Child protection expert Mark Williams-Thomas said: "Looking at these tweets I'd say the boy is being followed by an adult posing as a teenager. It highlights how easy it is for a paedophile to prey on children through Twitter."

Other Twitter pages showed obscene images of Thai girls who are clearly under 18 - the legal age for sexual material.

And a page showing a pigtailed girl reckoned to "look 11" by Mr Williams-Thomas has links to a host of sordid pictures with pornographic come-ons.

He said: "I have no doubt this has been posted by a paedophile for others to follow."

Tweeter bloggers have begged the site to combat perverts.

One wrote: "Dear Twitter, please investigate \*\*\*\*\* and get this account closed down. It is sickening and very wrong."

But the site has ignored a Government plea to include a link to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre so youngsters can raise the alarm about suspicious blogs.

*Twitter has become a global phenomenon with between four and five million users in the UK alone, including legions of kids.*

US President Barack Obama, Hollywood star Demi Moore and British celebs including Stephen Fry, Jonathan Ross and Lily Allen are all fans.

And more than 55million "tweets" are exchanged every month.

But ex-cop Mr Williams-Thomas said: "The problem is nobody is policing Twitter and nobody has woken up to the fact it is being exploited by paedophiles.

"Twitter should be monitoring their pages to make sure this doesn't happen. But they are not."

US-based Twitter is one of only two major social networking sites which are not members of the UK's Internet Watch Foundation, a self-regulatory body funded by the web industry. The other is Facebook.