



Safeguarding Newsletter



ONLINE SAFETY AT HOME

Net Aware

Dear Parent/Carer,

With the majority of our children learning from home, they will have been spending more time online doing their school work, playing games or watching videos. Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However it's important we all consider how we can support children's online safety. Here's some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safer:

Sharing pictures

Using devices like phones and tablets to share pictures and videos can be a great way for children to have fun and stay in touch with friends and family. It's really important your child knows what's ok to share online and what they should check with you first.

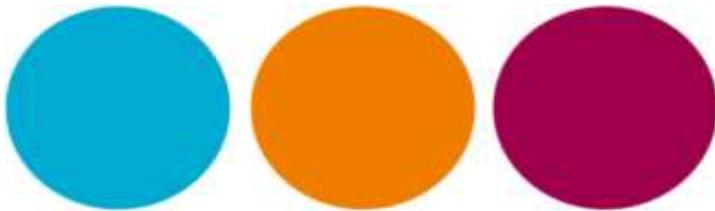
Watching Videos

Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them.

 **YouTube Kids** is a safer way for children to explore their interests. Remember, primary-age children should be **supervised** at all times when online.

More information?

Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's whose aim is to protect children and young people from sexual abuse online. For more information, advice and guidance, visit the website and download their activities for fun, online safety activities to do with your family.



Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online

Parental controls: Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so this shouldn't replace the support and guidance **you** give your child to help keep them safer. For more information and step by step instructions on setting up parental controls, visit:



Supervise their online activity: Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as the living room or kitchen, where an adult is able to supervise.

Primary-age children should not access the internet in private spaces alone, such as in a bedroom or bathroom.

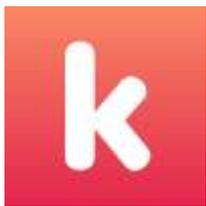
Explore together and chat little and often: Ask your child to show you their favourite apps, games and sites and encourage them to teach you how to use these. Ask them if anything ever worries them online. Make sure they know they won't be in trouble and can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried, sad or scared.

Use 'SafeSearch': Most web search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, which will allow you to limit the content your child can access whilst online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, which is often shaped like a small cog.

Visit  for more information on keeping your child safer online



Social networks for 6-11 Years



Spotlite app instead of Instagram:

Safety features

- ✓ All accounts require a parent or carer to provide email authentication and approval.
- ✓ No friends can be added until a parent approves the account.
- ✓ Geo-targetting is not offered so images will not share your child's location.
- ✓ Photos are monitored to make sure they're not inappropriate and all the likes made on photos are anonymous.



Gobubble app instead of Snapchat/iMessage:

Safety features

- ✓ Live moderation team who review flagged messages
- ✓ Removes any inappropriate images, text, audio, video, or emojis
- ✓ Advert free
- ✓ Due to its comprehensive safety features, the site has been awarded a PEGI 3 rating – the safest age rating available



We value **your voice** and would like you to join us on our journey of improvement.