



# Online Safety Awareness

Sutton Green - Feb 2026



## WhatsApp

WhatsApp's minimum age for creating an account is 13 years old.

WhatsApp can be a great way for people to stay in touch with friends and family, but parents should be aware of the risks - **especially in group chats**.

Large WhatsApp groups can quickly expose children to inappropriate language, content, bullying, peer pressure, or harmful links without adults realising it.

**It's important for parents to regularly check their child's device, review privacy settings together, and talk about who they are communicating with. It is important that parents reinforce the expectations of their child's conduct online too.**

Encourage your child to tell you if something makes them uncomfortable and reassure them they won't get in trouble for being honest.

## Tik Tok

TikTok requires that users be **at least 13 years old** to have an account.

This platform can expose children to mature content, dangerous trends, and contact from strangers through comments or direct messages. Even short videos can include inappropriate language, risky challenges, or misleading information.

Parents of children under 13 should restrict access to TikTok and monitor what their child watches and interacts with.

Regularly checking your child's device is not about invading privacy - it's about ensuring safety.

Talk frequently about online experiences, set clear expectations, and create a safe space where your child feels comfortable discussing what they see and experience online.

## Safer Internet Day 2026!

As part of Safer Internet Day, children took part in an assembly and computing lessons focused on making smart choices when using technology, particularly around the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). They learned that AI can generate information and content, but does not think or feel like a human, and that the information it provides is not always accurate. We reinforced the importance of not sharing personal information online and reminded pupils that topics such as health, friendships or worries are always best discussed with a trusted adult. We encourage you to continue these conversations at home to help your child use technology safely and responsibly.

**Please see further support via the links below:**

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/child-abuse-and-harm/keeping-children-safe-online>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>