



Keeping Children Safe Online

The internet provides children with many fantastic opportunities to learn, play, communicate and be creative. However, it is important that children also understand how to use technology safely and responsibly.

Online safety risks can be grouped into four main areas: **Content, Contact, Conduct and Commerce.**

Content

Children may come across things online that are inappropriate, upsetting, misleading or harmful. This can happen through websites, videos, games, social media and other online platforms. Children should be encouraged to think carefully about what they see online, understand that not everything they see is true, and speak to a trusted adult if something worries or upsets them.

Contact

Children can communicate with many different people online, particularly through games, apps and messaging services. It is important that they understand that people online may not always be who they say they are. Children should never share personal information with people they do not know and should tell a trusted adult if anyone online makes them feel worried, uncomfortable or unsafe.

Conduct

Children need to understand that the way they behave online can affect both themselves and others. We encourage children to be kind and respectful online, just as they would be face-to-face. They should think carefully before posting or sharing information, photographs or messages and understand that their actions can leave a **digital footprint**.

Commerce

Children may encounter advertising, in-app purchases, competitions, scams and other attempts to encourage them to spend money or share personal information. They should be taught not to click unfamiliar links, make purchases or provide personal details without checking with a trusted adult first.

How Parents and Carers Can Help

Talking regularly with your child about what they do online is one of the best ways to help keep them safe. Encourage them to tell you about the games, apps and websites they enjoy and reassure them that they can always speak to a trusted adult if something goes wrong online.

Parents and carers can also support children by using appropriate parental controls and privacy settings, checking that games and apps are suitable for their child's age, and encouraging healthy and responsible use of technology.

If you are concerned about something your child has experienced online, please speak to a member of staff at school. Serious concerns about online sexual abuse or grooming can also be reported through the **CEOP Safety Centre**.

Useful Online Safety Links for Parents and Carers

There is lots of useful advice available to help families keep children safe online. The following websites provide trusted, up-to-date information and support:

Childnet

Advice and resources for parents and carers about keeping children safe and happy online, including information about gaming, social media, online friendships and talking to children about their online lives.

UK Safer Internet Centre

Practical advice, guides and resources for parents and carers covering online safety, devices, games, social media, parental controls and emerging technology.

Internet Matters

Useful step-by-step guides to setting up parental controls, privacy settings and age-appropriate online safety measures across different devices, apps and games.

CEOP Safety Centre

CEOP helps protect children from online sexual abuse and grooming. Parents and carers can use the CEOP Safety Centre for advice and to make a report if they are concerned about a child being sexually abused or groomed online.

Remember: One of the most effective ways to keep children safe online is to talk to them regularly about what they enjoy doing online. Encourage your child to tell a trusted adult whenever something they see or experience online makes them feel worried, uncomfortable or unsafe.