

Boundaries

Talk to your child about safe and appropriate online behaviour.

Consider setting up a family agreement regarding how their internet use will be supervised and how long they can spend online. Resources to help can be found

at www.childnet.com and www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/

Apply appropriate parental controls to all devices: www.saferinternet.org.uk and www.internetmatters.org

Discuss your expectations about the types of content and information they should share online, rules relating to adding friends and meeting people in real life.

Do they understand:

- That content posted online should never be considered to be private and may be copied and shared?
- That they should behave online the same as they would in "the real world" and be kind?

How to be secure online such as by using safe and strong passwords. You can visit www.getsafeonline.org.uk for more advice

Thank you!

Staying Safe Online

Let's talk about... Apps

Please have a read of this useful information about purchasing and using apps with your children! The most effective way of keeping children safe online is by working together. We would love to hear any of your tips or info about apps your children use at home.



Before children use a new app parents should:

Listen

Take an active interest in your child's online life and talk with them about how they use technology.



Ask your child why they want to use the app? How did they hear about it?

Discuss with them how they will keep themselves safe and make sure they know:

- How to block and report other users and content
- To speak to a trusted adult if they see anything or something happens online that makes them feel worried, upset or uncomfortable.

About websites such as ChildLine and CEOP? www.childline.org.uk and www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Reviews

What do other people (i.e. other parents and carers) have to say about the app?

Ask your friends and family members or take a look online. You may be able to find

reviews via search engines or using tools such as www.netaware.org.uk and

www.commonsensemedia.org

Safety

Many popular apps will have 'help' and 'safety' sections, either within the app itself or via its website. Some apps will even have content specifically designed for parents and carers.

www.saferinternet.org.uk has some useful parent guides which highlight safety tools on popular devices, and signpost to report mechanisms.

Does the app have any privacy settings? If so then help your child to apply them appropriately – for example is it possible to set the app so that only trusted friends can see information they post?

Explore the block and report features. Can your child block or report concerning users or inappropriate behaviour?

If the app doesn't have safety or help sections or doesn't provide the ability to report and block then you may wish to consider if it is safe for your child to use.

