



7th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Online Safety Letter for Parents and Carers

I am writing to you to highlight a concern that we need your ongoing support with.

Over the Spring term, there has been a significant rise in the number of our pupils reporting that they have had access to apps, games and media (Youtube, Kids Youtube, films and TV programmes such as Squid Games) and have accessed content that is not age appropriate. This includes children as young as 6 years old that have seen scary pop up clips through their devices.








We are highlighting this to families to make you aware that when raised with us in school, this is included under our umbrella of safeguarding. This is in relation to what children are accessing and viewing; particularly when it is material or content that is not age appropriate and can have significant impact on their emotional wellbeing and mental health. We will therefore make direct contact with parents to address any concerns, offering support and advice.

Our aim is to work with our families in understanding and supporting your children with how they can be safe online. The digital world is ever changing and is a large part of day to day lives for adults and children. By supporting children to understand the boundaries, how to report concerns, as well as how to keep personal information safe, we can ensure that we work together to safeguard the children.

When you provide your child/children with access to laptops/tablets /mobile devices, you have a duty of responsibility as parents/carers, to ensure that you set appropriate parental controls that restrict the content available to your child, and that you frequently check your children's devices. This includes smart TVs and games consoles, as well as mobile phones and tablets, to ensure that you know what they are accessing and if using chat functions, who they are in contact with and what they are doing online.

I have attached a guide to support you with key activities: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/6-10/>

Below we have outlined advice from Internet Matters in relation to supporting young children online. You may find this useful to print and have available at home to discuss as a family. If you would like a printed copy, please contact the school office.

<u>Key activities to help keep children safe online</u>	
<p>Agree on boundaries.</p> 	<p>Be clear about what your child can and can't do online – where and when they can use the internet, how much time they can spend online, the sites they can visit and the type of information they can share.</p> <p>Agree with your child when they can have a mobile phone or tablet</p> <p>When you do give them their first device make sure that it is set up appropriately for them with the right parental controls in place. It's a good idea to introduce tech-free meal times and encourage them to keep phones out of the bedroom at night to help them build a healthy screen time balance.</p>
<p>Put yourself in control</p> 	<p>Set parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. Set up a user account for your child on the main device they use and make sure other accounts in the household are password-protected so that younger children can't access them by accident.</p>
<p>Explore together</p> 	<p>The best way to support your child online is to talk to them about what they do online and what sites and apps they like to use.</p> <p>Be inquisitive and ask them to show you their favourites to check they're suitable</p>
<p>Search safely</p> 	<p>If you let your child search independently, make sure safe search is activated on Google and other search engines, as well as restricted mode on YouTube. You can set your default search to one designed specifically for children, such as Swiggle, and can save time by adding these to your Favourites.</p>
<p>Check if it's suitable</p> 	<p>The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. For example, the minimum age limit is 13 for several social networking sites, including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok.</p> <p>Make use of platforms and services designed with children in mind like CBBC, YouTube Kids, Sky Kids, BBC iPlayerKids.</p> <p>Although sites aimed at under-10s like Spotlite (Formerly Kudos) also have social networking elements.</p> <p>See other similar social networking sites built for kids in our 'Social networks made for kids' guide.</p>
<p>Stay involved</p> 	<p>Encourage them to use their tech devices in a shared space like the lounge or kitchen so you can keep an eye on how they're using the internet and also share in their enjoyment.</p>
<p>Talk to siblings</p> 	<p>It's a good idea to talk to any older children about what they're doing online and what they show to younger children. Encourage them to be responsible and help keep their younger siblings safe.</p>

If you would like any specific advice or guidance in how to access/set parental controls on devices, please do not hesitate to make contact with the school via the office and a member of the team can provide materials or direct support with this.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Cs' or 'Claire Spencer'.

Claire Spencer- Headteacher