

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE:



Advice for parents/carers Working with your children at home:

Whilst there are huge benefits to being online in order to stay connected to family and friends during this period, the government recognises many parents may feel concerned about the activities and content their children are accessing. This guidance outlines resources to help keep children safe from different risks online and where to go to receive support and advice.

- Try to strike a balance that's right for you. There are thousands of online teaching resources, but being online for the whole school day is an incredibly long time for primary aged children.
- Please use the suggested home learning tasks provided by the school. These will signpost you to suitable and safe online resources as well as other practical activities that will support your child's learning. They can be found on the school website <https://www.stowlawnprimary.co.uk/class-sites>
- Try using a child friendly search engine such as Kiddle or Swiggle. These will prioritise websites that are suitable for children or learning!



KEEPING SAFE ONLINE:

Currently, there are lots of people offering support to parents and carers for home schooling via groups and live streams across a multitude of platforms. This unfortunately could be seen as an opportunity for unsavoury characters to find their way to young people. There will be people looking to exploit these situations and, whilst the majority of people's intentions are well meaning and honest, we would like to remind children's primary carers about these risks:

RAISING CONCERNS:

An essential part of the online planning process will be ensuring children who are being asked to work online have very clear reporting routes in place so they can raise any concerns whilst online.

You can find age appropriate practical support from:

- [Childline](#) - for support
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - to report and remove harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) - for advice on making a report about online abuse
- [Parent Info](#) – provides support and guidance for parents and carers

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT ONLINE SAFETY

This can be a daunting prospect, but it's important. Your kids need to know they can talk to you if something does go wrong. Talking to them about their online activity in the same way you would do about anything else will help them to relax and, if anything is troubling them, they'll be more likely to tell you about it. You and they need to be aware of:

- Online Bullying AKA Cyberbullying
- Exposure to radical content
- Sexting
- Gaming: Many games include messaging for gamers to chat with each other. As these are often open message rooms, children could be exposed to inappropriate language and discussions.
- Online Video: YouTube is the biggest and most widely used video service. Over 400 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube every minute, so there's a wealth of great content that kids can access. Of course, there is also inappropriate content, and parents have a couple of options to control what children can watch. [YouTube Kids](#) is an app-based approach, available for both Android and Apple iOS devices. Aimed at younger users, it uses a mix of automated Google filters (who own YouTube), review by moderation teams, and feedback from parents.
- Harmful Content: Harmful content is anything online which causes a person distress or harm. What may be harmful to one person might not be considered an issue by someone else, but we generally talk about eight types of harmful content:

1. Online Abuse
2. Bullying or Harassment
3. Threats
4. Impersonation
5. Unwanted Sexual Advances (Not Image Based)
6. Violent Content
7. Self-Harm or Suicide Content
8. Pornographic Content

RADICALISING CONTENT

If you are concerned that any family member, friend or loved one is being radicalised, you can call the police or 101 to get advice or make a Prevent referral, so that they can get safeguarding support.

1. [Educate Against Hate Parents' Hub](#) provides resources and government advice for parents and carers on keeping young people safe from extremism, including online.
2. [Let's Talk About It](#) provides support for parents and carers to keep children safe from online radicalisation.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

You can also look at setting up parental controls on your Wi-Fi, which can block access to inappropriate or adult content, as well as set time limits on internet usage. The UK Safer Internet Centre has produced a guide to '[Parental controls offered by your home internet provider](#)'.

APPS TO HELP CHILDREN STAY SAFE ONLINE



The BBC have a website and app called [Own It](#). The website has a lot of content for children to help them navigate their online lives, and the free smartphone app comes with a special keyboard which can intervene with help and support in the moments that children need it the most. It can be downloaded for free in the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.



[SafeToNet](#) is an app for parents to help them safeguard their children from online risks like cyberbullying and sexting, whilst respecting their child's rights to privacy. The SafeToNet Foundation is providing UK families with free access to 1 million licences during coronavirus.

SOCIAL MEDIA

For kids, social media services mean they can keep in touch with friends, connect with new people, and share photos and videos with each other.

There are risks too, including:

- Seeing inappropriate or harmful content
- The promotion of harmful or illegal behaviour or conduct
- Sharing too much information, or picking up incorrect information
- Inappropriate contact with other young people or adults

You can download checklists for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Roblox and TikTok from this [social media checklists page](#). The checklists will help parents to understand more about each platform, what information they use, and how to set privacy settings.

Below are some useful links to help parents and carers:

- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and carers from the NSPCC)

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

If your child is worried or needs support, they can receive advice and support from [Childline](#) (0800 1111) or download the 'For Me' app.

If you need help to support your child's mental wellbeing, this [list of online education resources for home education](#) includes mental wellbeing resources which provide guidance on how to support the wellbeing of children and young people.

You can access further advice /support on the safeguarding page on our website

<https://www.stowlawnprimary.co.uk/safeguarding>