

Online safety at home:

Parents and Carers Newsletter

October 2025

We are now almost at the end of the first half term of the new school year. With the majority of children doing their school work, playing games or watching videos on line it's important we all consider how we can support children's online safety. Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. Here are a few things to watch out for.

Sharing pictures and videos

Using devices like phones and tablets to share pictures and videos can be a great way for children to have fun and stay in touch with friends and family. However, the internet is a public and open space where anyone can post and share content so it does mean your child may see something that is intended for adults.

Find out what to do if [you're worried your child might see something inappropriate online](#) or what to do [if they already have](#).

It's really important your child knows what's ok to share online and what is inappropriate. We have been made aware that some of our older children are sharing images and posting videos on WhatsApp and YouTube.

Although children have online safety lessons in school which covers these elements it is important that you understand what your child is sharing and on what platforms.

For example, photographs and mobile telephone numbers, often added to WhatsApp group chats, are personal information and as such are covered under the General Data Protection Regulations to which children under 18 have the same data protection rights as adults. These details must not be shared without permission.

Read [younger children sharing pictures or videos online](#) for more information on the risks and how to support safer sharing.

Chatting, being kind and making friends online

The internet has many positive opportunities for children to learn and play, but it can also be used in negative and unkind ways.

It's really important to speak to your child about being kind online, and how they can get help if they see or hear anything that makes them feel worried, scared or sad.

The term 'online friend' can be used to describe people you only know through the internet, or those that you also know offline. Some children make friends online by meeting new people through online platforms such as gaming sites. Ensure your child knows several trusted adults they can speak to if they are ever feeling worried, sad or scared by anything they have seen online.

It is important to talk to your child about cyberbullying and what it may look like.

This link to the NSPCC website has lots of information on cyberbullying:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying-cyberbullying>

Online gaming

Online games are social activities, and most have features that allow children to chat with others whilst they play.

The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) rating system can be a useful tool to help you decide what online games are appropriate for your child.

For more information on the PEGI system and other factors to consider before deciding what's suitable, read [Gaming: what's appropriate for your child](#)

We are aware some children are playing games that have been given an age rating of 18+. Please can we remind you that these games are rated due to their inappropriate content for younger children.

Gaming is popular with both children and adults but if your child is gaming, you may have some questions about how to keep them safer. If so, check out - [gaming: what parents need to know](#).

Please take a look at our website where there are tips and guides on using parental controls and things to be aware of.

<https://oak-green-school.secure-primariesite.net/online-safety-parent-information/>

Remember teach your child the SMART rules

S is for Strangers
M is for Meet
A is for Accepting
R is for Reliable
T is for Tell

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/be-smart-online/>

Use the 3M's for digital parenting:

- **Model** a healthy digital lifestyle for children by using technology appropriately
- **Manage** personal information and accounts for young children
- **Monitor** activity once children have started managing their own accounts

Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online

Parental controls: Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so this shouldn't replace the support and guidance you give your child to help keep them safer. For more information and step by step instructions on setting up parental controls, visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

Supervise their online activity: Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as the living room or kitchen, where an adult is able to supervise. Primary age children should not access the internet in private spaces alone, such as in a bedroom or bathroom.

Explore together and chat little and often: Ask your child to show you their favourite apps, games and sites and encourage them to teach you how to use these. Ask them if anything ever worries them online. Make sure they know they won't be in trouble and can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried, sad or scared.

Make sure they know where to go for support: Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset.

Visit the NSPCC site for more help and advice on online safety:

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

Talk about how their online actions affect others: If your child is engaging with others online, remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo/video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.

Use 'SafeSearch': Most web search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, which will allow you to limit the content your child can access whilst online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, which is often shaped like a small cog.

Children are never too young to be taught healthy online habits. See the handy guide for online safety in the Early Years here:

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/oak-green-school/UploadedDocument/1c52f729-3313-42b7-ab34-ce6cfd0f8a25/online-safety-for-under-5s..pdf>

Safeguarding and online safety:

The 2025 guidance Keeping children safe in education, sets out what schools and colleges in England must do to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18. It has recently been amended to add disinformation, misinformation and conspiracy theories to the list of content risks under online safety. There is also a requirement for schools to have acceptable **Filtering and Monitoring** systems in place.

Disinformation is the deliberate creation and spread of false or misleading content, such as fake news.

Misinformation is the unintentional spread of this false or misleading content

There is also updated guidance on the use of **Generative AI**. Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) that creates new, original content like text, images, music, audio, and code by learning patterns from existing data.

As a parent you can expect to find out what technologies and applications your child/children will be using for their Year Group in their Curriculum Newsletters.

Currently Oak Green staff do not interact with children via remote learning platforms.

As a school we take our online safeguarding responsibilities seriously and have a next generation Firewall on site protecting children and staff from harmful sites and offensive language. Regular filtering tests take place together with real-time monitoring. It also helps protect the school network from malicious attacks.

