



Farington Moss St Paul's Online Safety Newsletter

Issue 16. Winter 2025

'Thrive in the Gift of Life.' John 10 : 10 '



Get ready for a digital festive season

Have you purchased a device for your child this Christmas? If you are gifting a new device or one that is new to them, make sure that the device is set up before it is wrapped up.

Ofcom have created a useful list of information to remember when setting up a new device. For more information visit this website.

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/new-tech-no-problem-help-to-keep-your-kids-safe-online-at-christmas>

Internet Matters have also set up guidance on their website. There are different guides such as setting up parental controls, setting up second hand phones and advice about buying different devices.

For more information, please visit this website.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/childrens-online-safety-this-festive-season/>

If you need further information about children's tech then you may find this website useful.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/>

Being Safe Online

During the Christmas holidays don't forget to reinforce online safety messages at home, especially as children are likely to be online more. The NSPCC offer some useful advice to help start these tricky conversations.

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



Pegi Ratings

Not sure what the latest Pegi ratings are? All games consoles have parental control settings to allow you to limit your child's gaming to age-appropriate games based upon the PEGI rating. For more information about the different age levels and descriptors visit: <https://pegi.info/>



Social Media Platforms and Apps

With so many social media platforms and apps it can be hard to keep up. SWGfL have set up a set of handy social media checklists to help parents. Please click on the link below for more information.

https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=swgfl&utm_campaign=Loo+king+Ahead+to+the+New+Year



Online Gaming Hub

Internet Matters have set up an online gaming hub. If you are overwhelmed by the choice of games available to purchase, then the gaming hub has useful information, guides and checklists for parents. There is also different advice for games from younger children up to teenagers. This website has a wealth of information.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/>



Safe Online Searching

Does your child like to search for information online? In school we encourage the children to use a safe child friendly search engine called Swiggle. The search engine is easy to use and you don't need to install anything onto your device. For more information visit <https://swiggle.org.uk/>



Useful Website Links

SWGfL

<https://swgfl.org.uk/online-safety/10-online-safety-tips/>

UK Safer Internet Centre

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

CEOP

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

NSPCC

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

Online Safety and Social Media

Social media is an online platform that allows users to connect with others online. Depending on what platform you use, social media can allow you to communicate and share information with others with the intention to update or engage a specific audience. This can often include sharing videos, images, status updates or posts with a group of followers that can sometimes cover a global scale.



A lot of the time, social media is a positive place where users support each other. Despite this, it can also house toxic and harmful behaviours, which can be directed towards specific individuals or groups with the intention to harass, or cause upset.

Benefits of Social Media

- 1 Available and accommodating to most audiences
- 2 Can promote positivity and healthy expression
- 3 An accessible platform to connect with others
- 4 An instant platform for news and global awareness

Considerations for Social Media

- 1 Harmful and offensive content may be seen across platforms
- 2 Can be used to promote misleading information
- 3 Can promote unhealthy expectations and pressure for young people
- 4 Can impact digital wellbeing if not managed correctly

Harm on Social Media

Many social media platforms have adapted to include reporting features in order to tackle certain types of online harm. Some of these harms to watch out for include:

- 1 Fake online profiles
- 2 Misinformation or fake ads
- 3 Scamming or fraud attempts
- 4 Radical online content



Socialising Online

Social media provides a lot of freedom in how to connect with other users as well as how information and content is made available. This has provided certain platforms with worldwide appeal, giving anyone an opportunity to connect and engage with others. To promote keeping safe on social media, ensure that young people know how to:

- 1 Report harmful content online
- 2 Block and report users who are being offensive or harmful
- 3 Manage privacy settings to limit exposure to known friends and family members
- 4 Speak to a trusted adult if they are concerned about something online

To find out more about Social Media visit the SWGfL hub:
swgfl.org.uk/topics/social-media/

or scan the QR code



Further Support

Professionals Online Safety Helpline: saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service: swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/

Report Harmful Content:
reportharmfulcontent.com



We've designed a simple checklist to give you peace of mind regarding your child's safety on the internet.

Set your children's device up before you give it to them so you know they're safe online as soon as they start playing.



Get started



Set parental controls on your broadband to prevent your children seeing things they shouldn't



For smart phones check parental controls are also set up on the mobile network

Set up the device safely



Use the device setting so you can only download age appropriate apps and games



Disable location services so your child doesn't unintentionally share their location with others



Set up password control or disable in-app purchasing so big bills are not run up accidentally



Download age appropriate apps you're happy for your child to use

Talk about staying safe



If your children are 8-10 years old, download our parent / child Internet Matters app to help you talk about e-safety issues in an interactive way.



Be aware of key issues and how to discuss them with your children so they know how to stay safe online



If your child is using social networking apps check their profile and privacy settings, making sure they are not sharing personal or private information with people they do not know