

Farington Moss St Paul's Primary School



Online Safety Newsletter



Edition 6 December 2020

The Christmas holidays are nearly here. Christmas time is a good opportunity to remind children about the importance of e-safety. There will be many opportunities for children to go on-line and play with new toys and devices. Mobile phones, tablets and laptops provide many opportunities for children to have fun but also gives them access to an online world. Children's increased use of smart speakers and video on demand also enables them to be "connected" to the internet in other ways. YouTube is also increasingly being viewed by children aged 5-15 (Source Ofcom Report Children and Parents: Media use and attitudes report 2019).

Technology and the internet can be overwhelming. Sometimes it is difficult to know which app to use, which game is suitable or how much time should a child be on-line for? Here are some useful websites to signpost you in the right direction.

Parent Info

Parent Info is a website set up for Parents and Carers by CEOP and the Parent Zone. Parent Info contains a wealth of information that covers issues related to the internet. Its aim is to provide parents with the confidence to effectively tackle sensitive issues. For more information, please visit www.parentinfo.org

NSPCC's Top Tips

Tips from the NSPCC about keeping your child safe online are:

1. Have a conversation about using the internet early and often.
2. Explore the internet together.
3. Know who your child is talking to online.
4. Set rules and agree boundaries.
5. Make sure content is age appropriate.
6. Use parental controls to filter, restrict, monitor and report content.
7. Check privacy settings and remind children to keep personal information private.

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

Games Consoles

Online gaming can be fun, entertaining and can encourage teamwork and cooperation when played with others. Internet safety is directly applicable to online gaming on **all** devices. 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.

PEGI labels appear on the front and back of games packaging, and on online games and apps. For more information about the different age levels and descriptors visit: www.pegi.info/en/index

The Childnet International website has lots of information and top tips about online gaming. The top tips are:

1. Play a game or two with your child.
2. Talk with your child about the types of games that they like to play.
3. Talk about who your child may be playing with online.
4. Set up parental controls.
5. Establish a family agreement.

For more information and other useful website links visit: <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/gaming>

Social Media Use

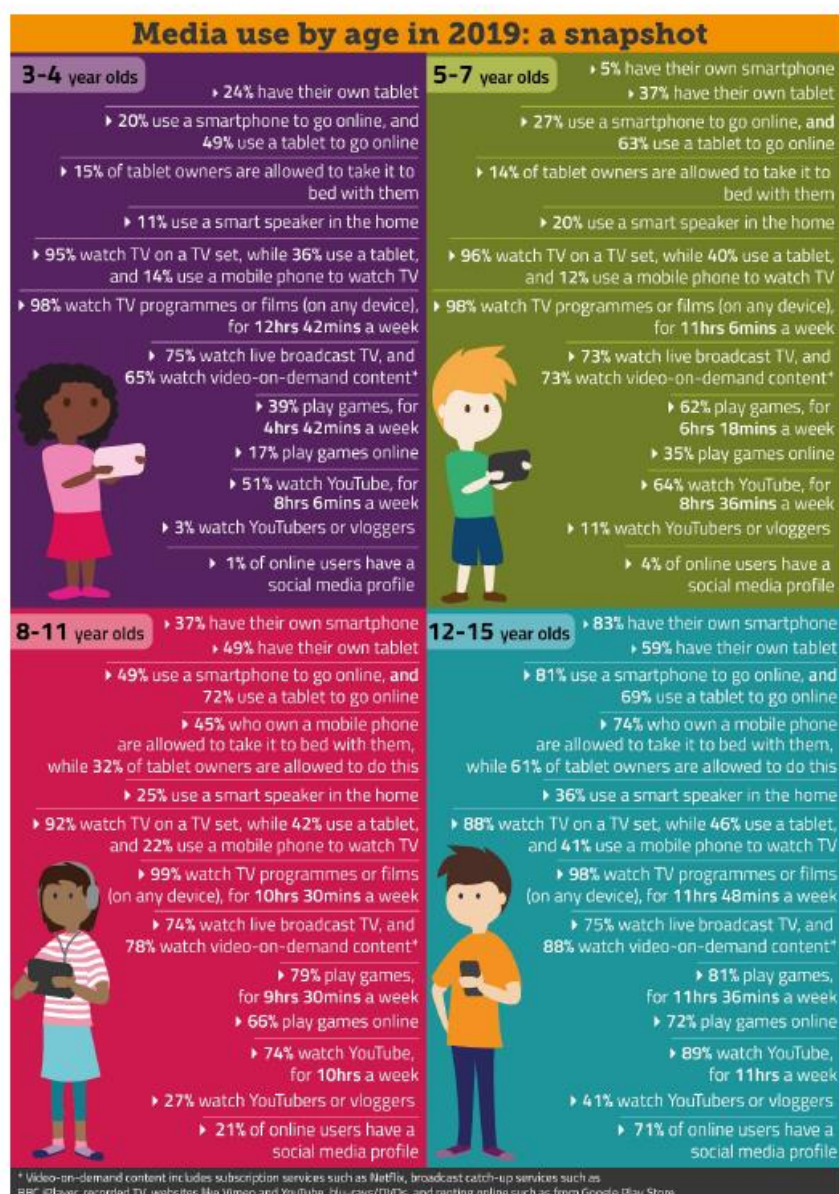
The minimum age on most social media platforms is 13. Did you know that the age requirement for WhatsApp is now 16 years old? Ofcom has found from their research that "a significant proportion of primary school-age children have their own social media profile. A quarter of ten-year-olds who go online claim to have a profile, with this proportion almost doubling to 43% of 11-year-olds," (Source Ofcom Report Children and Parents: Media use and attitudes report 2019).

There can be positives to social media but it is also worth bearing in mind the negative impacts too such as inappropriate contact, cyberbullying, contact with strangers, inappropriate advertising and some social media platforms being notorious for collecting personal data.

TikTok is another platform that has gained popularity in recent years. Users don't have to have an account to watch the videos but again there is an age restriction of 13 to have an account. Many children enjoy watching videos that are posted but it is worth bearing in mind the risks such as data collection, contact with strangers and access to risky challenges and inappropriate content. For more information on Tik Tok, the risks and how to set up the parental controls please visit <https://parentinfo.org/article/tiktok-what-parents-need-to-know>

Interesting Statistics

(Source Ofcom Report Children and Parents: Media use and attitudes report 2019).



Other Useful Websites

SWGfI have some very useful tips for staying safe on-line. They provide information about purchasing apps and setting boundaries for using devices. <https://swgfi.org.uk/magazine/staying-safe-online-at-christmas/>

The Internet Matters website has some invaluable information. There is a Nice Device List Quiz which has several useful questions to remind and prompt parents and children about being safe online.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/social-media/>

<https://nicedevicelist.com/>

Internet Parental Controls: www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls

Safety tools on Online Networks: www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools

Online Gaming: www.childnet.com/online-gaming

A Parent's Guide to Technology: www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech

We hope you have a safe and Happy Christmas.

