



"Learning that lasts a lifetime"

## Newsletter

Applications for starting school in September 2019 has to be applied for by the 15th January 2019—  
[www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)

What a fantastic week! Our pupils performed brilliantly in their nativity performances. We really hope you enjoyed watching as much as the children enjoyed putting on the plays!

Christmas is around the corner and no doubt a number of your children will be lucky enough to receive electronic devices from Santa. We know from previous years that there is often an increase in the number of online safety concerns in January so we thought it wise to provide some sources of advice on how to keep your children safe in the online world. There are some links to guidance later in the newsletter and we will be reminding children of some key messages before the break.

I hope to see lots of you at the Christingle Service on Monday evening. Have a great weekend!

### Polite reminder:

Please can children be discouraged from bringing their own toys into school. These items are becoming a distraction during valuable lesson time! Thank you for your support.

Parking Request ... We have received requests from residents of Boldventure area to ask that parents DO NOT park blocking, or partially blocking driveways. They have found that they cannot leave or access their properties at certain times of the day and are also concerned that emergency vehicles would be prevented from accessing properties due to inconsiderate parking.

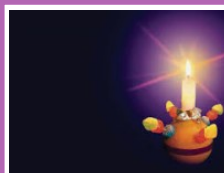
There is now more parking available up the lane near BB Park and we hope this may mean less of you need to park in Boldventure. Thank you!

A huge congratulations to choir members and speakers who performed at Bethel Chapel on Tuesday night. Your confident performances were enjoyed by so many, including the Bethel Ladies Group who hosted the event in aid of the charity, 'Blood Bikes'. We look forward to hearing how much money was raised at the event.

Mrs Parry.



### St Luke's Christingle Service



Monday 17th  
December at 5pm—all  
proceeds towards Children's  
Society.

## WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

The expected average attendance for a child is 96% for the year

Our attendance for this week is **95.96%**

Our attendance for this school year is **96.21%**

Well done to **Phoenix** class for the attendance stars of the week!

Classes	%	Lates	Class	%	Lates
Little Doves	93.1%	1	Pelicans	92.96%	11
Little Fish	95.93%	3	Angels	95.02%	5
Little Lambs	98.52%	5	Faith	95.93%	2
Peacocks	96.3%	4	Hope	97.7%	1
Phoenix	99.63%	4			

### 2018/19 Autumn Term Diary Dates:

**Monday 17th December @ 5pm**—Christingle Service

**Thurs 20th December @ 3.15pm**—Last day of Autumn Term

### 2018/19 Sprint Term Diary Dates:

**Mon 7th January**—First day of Spring Term

**Wed 16th Jan**—Reception & Yr 6 Weighing & Measuring

**Monday 28th Jan**—Reception Vision Screening

**18th—22nd Feb**—Half Term

### Request for Leave Absence

At Bishop Bronescombe CofE school, we recognise that there are occasions when it is appropriate to authorise an absence, such as when a pupil is genuinely too ill to attend school, has a medical appointment that cannot be taken outside of school hours or a request for leave has been agreed in exceptional circumstances.

However, the Government does not support parents taking children out of school unless the school agrees this is appropriate under 'exceptional circumstances'. Any request for leave should be made in writing to the Head of School using the school's request form.

If you still decide to take your child out of school, without permission, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may refer the matter to Cornwall Council who may decide to take legal action against you. A penalty notice can be issued under Section 444A and 444B of the Education Act 1996. This carries a fine per child, per parent of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this. Failure to pay the penalty notice may result in Court action. Persistent absences not authorised by the school may result in prosecution in the Magistrates Court, leading to fines up to £2,500 and/or custodial sentences. The Council may also apply for the cost incurred in taking the matter to Court.

You are welcome to contact the school to discuss any concerns you may have regarding this or if you feel you would like advice or support in helping your child attend more regularly. We are committed to maximising the education of all our pupils and aim to work with parents to ensure this can be achieved.

**BBKIDS TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 01726 65471—THIS IS FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY**

# We would like to welcome our new PSA

## Terri-Anne Old



### What is a Parent Support Advisor?

As a Parent Support Advisor (PSA), I am here to help, support and advise parents and carers who have any worries or concerns about their children, school life or personal circumstances. I offer the promise of a listening ear, appropriate support and signposting for those in need.

### What could a PSA help me with?

- Children moving to another school
- Supporting parents in meetings at school
- Providing advice and supporting parents with children's behavioural/additional needs
- Signposting and supporting parents engaging with external agencies
- Liaising with parents and children to resolve attendance issues
- Any other issue you may have that requires additional support

### Why might you need to use the PSA?

My child is having difficulties settling in at school... My child is anxious about school... My child's behaviour is difficult to control... I am worried about my child starting school... I just need someone I can talk to... I'm really worried about my son/daughter's self-esteem... I would like to know who else I could talk to about my situation...

### How do I contact the PSA?

Call the school to make an appointment

Call the PSA mobile phone directly– 07903 613 074

Pop in for an informal chat; my usual working days are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Drop in session 8.45am—9.45am on Wednesday mornings

### **BAD WEATHER EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

In the event of snow or extremely bad weather, we will text out to all parents any closure news. It will also be posted on our website and announced on Radio Cornwall/Pirate FM. If we take the decision to close the school during the school day, you do not need to contact us before collecting your child as this would only overload the telephone lines. Please rest assured we will NOT close the school until all children have been collected.

Many Thanks



# INFORMATION & ONLINE RESOURCES



## 1. CHILDNET RESOURCES AND WEBSITES



**Childnet:** Childnet International is a non-profit organisation working in partnership with others around the world to help make the internet a great and safe place for children. The Childnet website hosts all the online resources detailed below, as well as a number of recommended resources for young people, parents, carers and teachers. [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)



The **Parents and Carers** area also contains key advice, information on reporting and detailed information on a range of online safety topics in the **Hot topics** section. [www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers)



**UK Safer Internet Centre:** Childnet is part of the European Commission appointed UK Safer Internet Centre. Together with partners the Internet Watch Foundation and the South West Grid for Learning, we raise awareness about internet safety, develop information materials and resources and organise high profile events such as Safer Internet Day. You can access a range of resources from across the UK, Europe and wider afield at [www.saferinternet.org.uk/parents](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parents).



**KidSMART:** This Childnet website is for children, teachers, parents and carers and offers fun activities for children alongside practical internet safety advice. Don't forget to check out our 'I have kids' tab where you can find links to read the online stories 'The Adventures of Smartie the Penguin' and 'Digiduck's Big Decision', which is also available as a free app for iPads and Android tablets. [www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)



## 2. INFORMATION AND TOOLS FOR PARENTS & CARERS



**Supporting Young People Online:** A free guide created by Childnet providing information and advice for parents and carers on supporting young people online. The advice is also available in 12 additional languages including Arabic, Hindi, Polish, Spanish, Urdu and Welsh.

[www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online](http://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online)



**A Parents' Guide to Technology:** The UK Safer Internet Centre has created this guide to answer commonly asked questions and introduce some of the most popular devices used by children, highlighting the safety tools available and empowering parents with the knowledge they need to support their children to use these technologies safely and responsibly. [www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech)



**Internet Parental Controls:** The four big internet providers - BT, Sky, Talk Talk and Virgin Media - provide their customers with free parental controls that can be activated at any time. Video tutorials on how to activate and use these controls are available on the UK Safer Internet Centre website.

[www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls)



**Safety Tools on Social Networks and Other Online Services:**

Information and advice on the safety tools, age requirements and terms and conditions for a variety of online services popular with young people. [www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools)

## 3. SOCIAL NETWORKING



**Young People & Social Networking Sites:** Aims to help parents understand the positive and creative ways young people are using social networking spaces (e.g. Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram). It also points out the potential risks of using these sites and ways to minimise these risks.

[www.childnet.com/sns](http://www.childnet.com/sns)



**Social Network Checklists:** Free guides produced by the UK Safer Internet Centre that contain detailed instructions and information on privacy and account settings on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram. [www.saferinternet.org.uk/checklists](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/checklists)

## 4. MOBILE PHONES



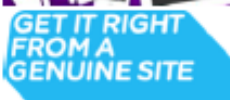
**PhoneBrain:** A site created by the Phone-Paid Services Authority to educate young people and parents about phone-paid services such as calls and texts to premium rate numbers and in-app purchases.

[www.phonebrain.org.uk](http://www.phonebrain.org.uk)

## 5. FILE SHARING & DOWNLOADING



**Music, Film, TV and the Internet:** Childnet has developed this guide with the music, film and television industries to inform parents, teachers and young people about how to stay safe and legal when enjoying entertainment on the internet or via a mobile device. [www.childnet.com/downloading](http://www.childnet.com/downloading)



**Get It Right From A Genuine Site:** A UK based website created by industry representatives to help teachers, parents and other consumers know which sites are legal for streaming and downloading films, tv, ebooks, music, games and sports broadcasts. [www.getitrightfromagenuinesite.org](http://www.getitrightfromagenuinesite.org)

## 6. ONLINE GAMING



**Ask About Games:** Information and advice for parents and gamers about the PEGI age rating system for video games and how to play games responsibly and safely.

[www.askaboutgames.com](http://www.askaboutgames.com)

## 7. OTHER USEFUL SITES FOR PARENTS & CARERS

**Net Aware** )))

**NetAware:** NSPCC and O2 have created a guide with information and advice for parents and carers on the most popular social networks and interactive apps and games used by children and young people. The information is also available in an app for Apple and Android devices. [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)



**Common Sense Media:** A US non-profit organisation that provides independent reviews, age ratings and other information about movies, games, apps, TV shows, websites, books and music for families and children. [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)



**Digital Parenting:** The Digital Parenting website and magazines, created by Vodafone and Parent Zone, offer parents information and advice about the latest digital technologies and the challenges young people might face in their digital world. [www.vodafone.com/content/parents](http://www.vodafone.com/content/parents)



**Internet Matters:** Launched by the four major UK internet service providers (BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media), Internet Matters is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that provides information and advice on online issues and technologies to help parents keep their children safe online. [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

## 8. WHERE TO GET HELP & ADVICE



**Need help?** Information about what to do if a child comes to you for help and advice about how to report online concerns such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content or illegal behaviour. [www.childnet.com/parents-help](http://www.childnet.com/parents-help)



**Tackling difficult conversations:** The Parents and Carers section of the Childnet website includes advice and resources on how to talk to children and young people about online safety issues. This section also includes a **template family agreement** and **conversation starters** that can be used to help families discuss how to stay safe online. [www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation](http://www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation)



**NSPCC:** The NSPCC has partnered with O2 to provide an online safety helpline for parents and carers to answer questions and address concerns about a child's online safety: **0808 800 5002**



Children can talk to someone for advice and support at any time by contacting **Childline** on **0800 1111** or chatting to a counsellor online at [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)



**Family Lives:** A national family support charity providing help and support in all aspects of family life. Useful advice and information is available online at [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk) and they provide a free confidential helpline on **0808 800 2222**.



**Young Minds:** The UK's leading charity committed to improving the wellbeing and mental health of children and young people. Information and advice for young people and parents/carers can be found at [youngminds.org.uk](http://youngminds.org.uk) and they also offer a free confidential helpline for parents on **0808 802 5544**.

## 9. WHERE TO REPORT



**Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP):** A police agency tackling child abuse on the internet. This website includes a unique facility that enables parents and young people to make reports of actual or attempted abuse online. [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)  
CEOP's Think U Know website contains information for children and parents, as well as a link for children to report abuse online. [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)



**Internet Watch Foundation:** Part of the UK Safer Internet Centre, the IWF is the UK's hotline for reporting illegal content found on the internet. It deals specifically with child abuse and criminally obscene images hosted in the UK and internationally. [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)

**ParentPort:** A website run by the UK's media regulators, allowing you to report content unsuitable for children found in a programme, advert, film, video game, newspaper/magazine or other forms of media. [www.parentport.org.uk](http://www.parentport.org.uk)

Email us:

[education@childnet.com](mailto:education@childnet.com)

Follow us:

[childnetinternational](https://www.facebook.com/childnetinternational)

[@childnet](https://twitter.com/childnet)

[childnet](https://www.youtube.com/childnet)

Subscribe to our newsletter:

[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

To give feedback and obtain online access to our presentation, please visit: [surveymonkey.com/s/childnet-parents](https://surveymonkey.com/s/childnet-parents)



# KEEPING UNDER FIVES SAFE ONLINE



Children of all ages enjoy using technology. We now see young children going online to play games, talk to family, watch videos and even learn to use voice enabled tech like Alexa and Siri to find out about their world.



Ofcom's latest research has shown that 86% of 3-4 year olds have access to a tablet at home and 21% have their own tablet. When over half of 3-4 year olds (53%) and over three quarters of 5-7 year olds (79%) go online there are real advantages in making sure that children are supported in their internet use right from the start.



These eight frequently asked questions will provide you with useful information and tips that you can put into place at home, to help keep your youngest children safe online.



## Where do I start?

The best way to keep your family safe online, and to understand your children's internet use, is to use the internet together. Explore the games and services that your children are using, or want to use, and use the safety features available. There are lots of fantastic websites, apps and games for young children to use so look out for these and enjoy them together. These steps will give you a better understanding of the different ways that children are engaging with technology and help you to feel more confident.

## Should I set any rules?

In the same way that you set boundaries for most areas of your children's lives, establish your expectations regarding online activities. Creating a family agreement ([www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation](http://www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation)) is a useful step, which might include time spent online, where and when devices can be used and what to do if they see something upsetting.



## How can I supervise my child?

Prevention is better than cure so it is best to look at apps or websites before your child is allowed to use them. There are lots of great apps and websites out there so have a look and try them out yourself. We also recommend that you always supervise young children when they are online as they may stumble across something upsetting, on sites like YouTube. Since the internet can be accessed from a number of devices and many of these are portable, we would advise you to keep devices (tablets, voice enabled technology, games consoles, laptop) in a busy part of the house e.g. the living room or kitchen. This makes it easier for you to be involved in their technology use and you are right there to answer any questions and help them.

## How much time is too much time?

Young children can be enthusiastic users of technology. The challenge can be to harness this enthusiasm and ensure a balance, so that the use of technology does not negatively impact on other important areas of young children's lives. There are some strategies that can be used to help manage the time online issue, such as setting time limits or using time limiting tools, designating weekly times to use the internet together, or removing portable devices from your child's bedroom at night to avoid tiredness.



## Are there tools to help?

You can take steps to restrict what your children see online. Using parental controls and filters will reduce the chances of them seeing something inappropriate or accidentally spending your money through in-app purchases. On devices, you can do things like block adult content, stop in-app purchases and even disable the camera on a phone. Visit the Parents' Guide to Technology on the UK Safer Internet Centre website ([www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech)) to find out more about the settings available on the devices you have at home. Parental controls are often password protected so choose a strong password and do not share it with your child.

Your internet service provider (such as BT or TalkTalk) will provide free filters to help block inappropriate content for children, and on the UK Safer Internet Centre website you can watch video tutorials that show you how to find and set these up ([www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls)). All mobile phone operators (such as O2 or Vodafone) also provide such parental controls for free. The websites of device manufacturers (such as games consoles) should also outline the controls to which you have access. You can find out more by visiting [www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls](http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls).

These parental controls and filters are a good starting point but it is important to recognise that nothing is 100% effective on its own. They will work best in combination with parental supervision and engagement to help your children understand how to stay safe online. As children grow and develop, so do their online needs, therefore you may want to periodically review your parental controls to accommodate this.

## What advice can I give my child?

Education is the best tool that a child can have, so discuss with your child the importance of telling an adult immediately if someone, or something, upsets them online. Make sure that your child knows that they can come and talk to you (without necessarily getting into trouble) if they see anything that worries them on the internet, and encourage them to feel confident enough to do so. Other immediate strategies to deal with unwanted content or contact could include: switch the screen off, close the laptop, exit the website, or turn the iPad or phone over and put it down.

Younger users may be distracted by advertising and pop ups and with just a couple of clicks, or a spelling mistake, may find themselves on a different website. Children are naturally curious and will innately push boundaries. Bookmarking sites or creating a 'favourites' list is a simple way to help your children find the content they want without having to search the internet for it. It is also important whilst beginning to explore the internet that your child realises that other internet users may not be who they say they are and that 'friends' made online are still strangers, so personal information should be kept safe, including their name, address, phone numbers and passwords. This is where a **family agreement** can be incredibly useful, to establish rules and good online behaviour in advance like not using your name in usernames on games.



## What games are okay for my child to play?

Gaming may be the very first way that your child encounters life online and there are lots of fantastic online games and apps to support their learning and development. Some games, however, are for adults or older audiences and contain images and language that are not suitable for children. Therefore it is important that the games your children play are the correct age rating. Like film classifications, these ratings are determined by the game's content, and all video games sold in the UK are clearly marked with age ratings set by PEGI (Pan European Games Information). Google Play and Windows Store apps are also rated by PEGI and the App Store has age ratings too.

**In-app purchases** are the optional extras within games that you have to pay for and can give parents a nasty shock when they receive a large phone or credit card bill. Free games as well as 'paid for' games can have in-app purchases and young children are often unaware that it is possible to spend real money through tapping on a device or clicking on something. Look out to see if the game has in-app purchases and you can use the parental controls on devices to disable in-app purchasing.

Many games allow children to play with and chat to other players. If these are people they only know online, they are strangers. You can often turn off the chat feature and some games provide a "safe chat mode" where simple predetermined phrases can be used. Playing these games yourself can be fun and will also enable you to see what the game is like and identify the safety features provided, such as reporting to a moderator. Common Sense Media ([www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)) is a website with reviews and lots of useful information on games but they also cover films, apps, TV shows, websites, books, and music too. Reading online reviews of games from other parents' experiences is a really useful way to highlight potential safety issues like whether the game features inappropriate adverts or bad language.



## Where can I report?

Reports can be made to websites through their safety/help centres and moderation services. If you are worried or suspicious about someone who contacts your child online report them to **CEOP**. Inappropriate media content seen online or offline, such as a game, advert or film can be reported via **Parentport**. For more information regarding reporting, visit our **Need Help** page in the parents and carers section of the Childnet website.



## USEFUL LINKS

### General advice for parents:

[www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/need-help](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/need-help)

[www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation](http://www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation)

[www.childnet.com/resources/family-agreement](http://www.childnet.com/resources/family-agreement)

### Filtering and parental controls:

[www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech)

[www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls)

[www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)

### Games and apps:

[www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)

[www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)

### Reporting:

[www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

[www.parentport.org.uk](http://www.parentport.org.uk)

[www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)



Childnet  
International



UK Safer  
Internet  
Centre

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# YOUNG PEOPLE AND SOCIAL NETWORKING SERVICES



Social networking apps such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat are very popular with young people, even those who are of primary age. These types of services allow young people to be creative online and keep in touch with their friends, as well as share photos and videos. On some social networks, young people can follow their favourite celebrity which means they can access the content they update and share. However, for parents and carers it's important to have a look at these services either by creating your own account to try an app out, or by creating an account together with your child to familiarise you with how it works. Most services stipulate a minimum user age of 13, although some interactive services are designed specifically for younger children.

Most sites stipulate a minimum user age of 13



By understanding these services and their potential risks you can help to support your child in choosing an appropriate service and using it in a safe and constructive way, and be able to help them if they need it.

Many things can contribute to your child's digital footprint including what they post and who they interact with. Young people are accessing and using social networking services on a range of devices such as mobile phones, tablets and gaming devices. They use social networking services for many different purposes; to communicate with their friends, to share photos, to play games and to find out new information. You need to remind your child however that they need to be careful about what they're posting online and who can see it. Children can sometimes believe that social networking services are a private space for them and it can be difficult for them to realise that actually what they're posting online may be public and can be spread very quickly and to a large audience. The blur between public and private expression can potentially put a child at risk in two main ways:

## Content:

Children who create or post inappropriate, offensive or even illegal content in their own or others' pages and feeds could get themselves into trouble with their school, friends, or even break the law, depending on the nature of the material. It's also important that young people understand the longevity of posting something online. Once content is uploaded, it could potentially stay online forever. Regardless of whether the owner takes down the content, anyone who had access to that content could have copied it for themselves, kept it for their own records or distributed it further. Content which is uploaded online can be copied, altered and reposted by anyone and it is very difficult to 'take back' things that may be later regretted. This can damage friendships/relationships, reputations and even future prospects.



## Contact:

Young people need to be aware that any personal information they upload could potentially reach a much wider audience than intended. If a user of a social networking service doesn't protect their information by enabling the correct privacy settings, they could be exposing their information to strangers and as a result be at risk of online contact and grooming. Posting or chatting about personal details might enable someone to identify and contact your child online or in person. There is also the more likely risk of cyberbullying with young people intentionally harming another person online. Talk to your child about why protecting their privacy online is important and talk through the available privacy settings with them.

It's a good idea to talk to your child about their social networking life online. In the same way that you might ask them about their social life offline, talking about social networking services together is no different. Why not start with a positive conversation about what they like to do online, and why they like the services that they use? You can then ask them whether they know where to go for help, or whether they know how to make their profile private, or even ask them to help you with your privacy settings.

There are a range of free resources available for parents and carers, which you can use to support your child online:

Useful conversation starters for parents and children [www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation](http://www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation)

Guides to the safety features on popular social networking sites [www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools)

Tips and guidance on the privacy features of popular social networking sites [www.saferinternet.org.uk/checklists](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/checklists)

Advice for parents and carers on hot topics in online safety [www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics)

SMART Rules to go through with your children [www.childnet.com/primary](http://www.childnet.com/primary)

To report any suspected online sexual abuse or grooming to the police, please go to [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)





## Further advice to discuss with your child:

### Privacy settings

These settings give the user the ability to control who they share particular content with, for example making a photo you post visible to friends only or to the public. Encourage children and young people to use the privacy tools available on the social networking service to protect their personal information and to keep their passwords private (even from their friends). Information on how to do this can be found at [www.saferinternet.org.uk/checklists](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/checklists). Most social networking sites give safety advice and information on their safety tools. Links to this advice and information can be found at [www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools).



### Online Friendship

Remind your child to consider carefully who they add as friends or followers, and what those friends and followers can see once added to a contact list. Your most trustworthy online friends are the people you also know and trust offline.



### Geolocation

Young people must be aware of who they are sharing their location with. If they are accessing a social networking services via a smartphone or mobile device, they might be disclosing their location without realising it. Location services can be turned on or off per app within the settings of a device.



### Think Before You Post

Emphasise the importance of thinking before you post something online. This can include writing a comment or sharing a picture. It can also include sharing on things that others have posted. Discuss with them what is and isn't okay to say in a post and remind them that sometimes messages online can be misunderstood. What may start out as a harmless joke for one person can be extremely hurtful for another individual and once something is posted online it is potentially there forever. If you are not sure, or if you wouldn't be happy for your Head Teacher to see it, it's probably best not to post it. Your online reputation can also be affected by other behaviour, such as groups you join or clicking 'likes'.



### Consider the photos you upload

It's important that children consider the content of the images they share online, and the impact they may have on their own reputation, and the emotions of others. They should always ensure that they ask permission from others before posting pictures of them online.



### Know how to block and report

Make sure children and young people know how to report abusive comments or illegal activity on social networking services. Many social networking sites allow you to report a comment or user who is potentially breaking their terms and conditions, by clicking on a report button or filling out an online form. If young people have concerns about cyberbullying then they should speak to a trusted adult as well as save the evidence, and use the tools available to block other users. If you have concerns that your child is or has been the subject of inappropriate sexual contact or approach by another person, it's vital that you report it to the police via the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre ([www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)).



### Security

Make sure your child chooses a strong password, avoiding identifiable words or phrases such as birthdays and pets names. A good password should also include a mixture of upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols. Once your child has finished using a social networking service it is important for them to log out, especially when using a public or shared computer. Make sure they have locked their mobile device with a pin or password, as mislaid devices can mean that others could access their social networking accounts.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### How can I report inappropriate behaviour and what happens when I make a report?

Most social networking services have clear, prominent and accessible places to make a report. Providers should respond promptly to reports from users, and some will acknowledge each report with a confirmation that it has been received and provide indication of the timescale in which the complaint will be managed. Encourage your child to add as much information as possible to any report they make, so that the networks can respond efficiently and effectively. Make sure you talk with your child about these tools and ensure that they know how to use them. Many sites have community standards that outline what is acceptable and unacceptable on their service and becoming familiar with these can help you understand what can be removed by reporting.

### Can my child limit who accesses their profile?

It is possible to set profiles to private or friends/followers only, which restricts access only to those who have been granted permission to see it. This is different to a public profile which can be seen by anyone. Depending on the social networking service the privacy settings do differ so it is imperative that users check their settings. Whilst it is possible to limit who can see your child's profile, remember, it is always possible for others to screen shot and share on their content to others. It is important that children should register with their real age so that they are included in the protections made available by default to their age group.

### My child is underage, but has created a social networking profile. What should I do?

Research shows us that a large number of children have created a social networking profile before they are at the required age (usually 13) to do so. It is important to respect the terms and conditions of the site and register with the correct age, as there are additional protections in place for younger users. If the site however discovers that underage users are using the service, they will delete their account. You should discourage underage use of these services as best you can, and be aware of services which cater for younger users by having higher safety features. Details about different services and their features can be found at [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk).

Before young people start using social networking services it is important that they are equipped with the skills to stay safe online and to use social networking services responsibly. Discussing and agreeing ways that they can use social media positively and safely is a good first step; a family agreement and conversation starters to support these discussions can be found at [www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation](http://www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation). Sit down together and make sure that you both know how to use the privacy tools that are provided. There are multiple ways in which a social networking profile can remain private that will prevent your child from giving out personal information to strangers. Support your child in ensuring that they only add contacts to these services that they also know and trust offline. One way to keep an eye on how your child uses a social networking site is to connect with them.

### Does my child's profile appear in a public search engine (e.g. Google)?

There are ways that you can prevent your profile from appearing in search engine results; most social networking sites allow you to remove your profile from public search results by using the privacy settings. It is also important to review privacy settings regularly and search your name online to check what appears.

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