



Safeguarding Newsletter

ONLINE SAFETY AT HOME

Dear Parent/Carer,

Recent national developments highlight just how rapidly the digital landscape is evolving, especially with new technologies like AI becoming part of children's everyday online experiences.

This newsletter outlines the key updates, reminders, and practical measures that can help support safe, responsible, and confident online behaviour. We will also be addressing some of these themes through our safeguarding curriculum, ensuring that pupils continue to develop the knowledge and skills needed to navigate online environments safely and thoughtfully.

If you require any further information on any aspect of online safety, please do not hesitate to speak with me or one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads in school.

Best wishes



Mrs Anscombe

Government Announces New Online Safety Measures (February 2026)

The UK Government has introduced new powers to make the internet safer for children, including closing loopholes that allow harmful content to slip through and bringing **AI chatbots under illegal-content duties** within the Online Safety Act.

What this will mean

AI chatbots must follow child-safety laws: Any AI chatbot that children may encounter is now legally required to prevent the creation or sharing of illegal content. This new responsibility is designed to reduce the risk of children receiving harmful or inappropriate responses from automated systems.

Greater accountability for platforms:

The principle that "no platform gets a free pass" means companies face stronger expectations — and consequences — if they fail to keep children safe. This gives children, parents, and schools more certainty that the services children use are being held to higher safety standards.

Whilst this is a positive step forwards, it will not be perfect and unfortunately some websites/apps will continue to find ways to operate in unsafe and harmful ways. So please ensure that you are safeguarding your children by closely supervising their online activity.

Stronger safeguards against harmful content: Online platforms will now be required to close loopholes that previously allowed inappropriate or dangerous material to appear, ensuring a more consistent level of protection for young users.

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In Jubilee we have seen an increase in children using age in-appropriate social media apps, which has resulted in a rise in referrals to both social care and the police

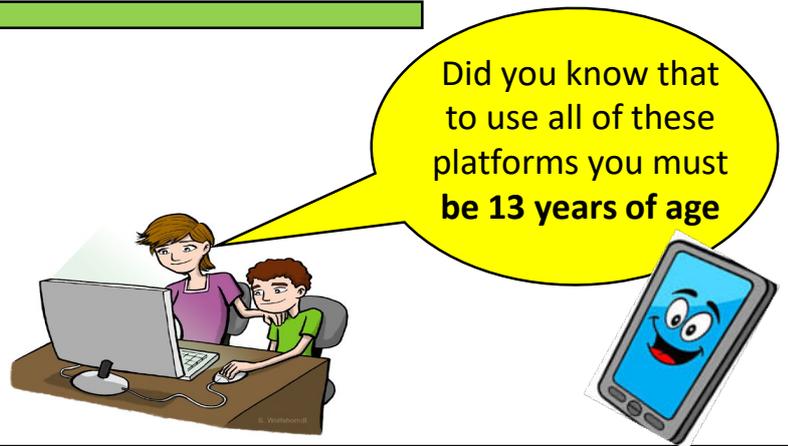
Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online with



For more information regarding keeping your child safe online please visit the following website

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/child-abuse-and-harm/keeping-children-safe-online>

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.



What online parental controls are available?

Two-thirds of parents report using parental controls to help manage and limit what their children can access online, according to Internet Matters, a safety organisation established by several major UK internet companies. These tools can be an effective way to reduce exposure to inappropriate or harmful material, and the organisation provides clear guidance to support families in using them confidently.

For example, parents wishing to minimise the risk of their child encountering unsuitable content on YouTube — the platform most widely used by young people in the UK — can enable the dedicated **YouTube Kids** version. This offers a more controlled environment by filtering out adult content and tailoring the experience to younger users.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

internet
matters.org

Children's Commissioner launches new guide for parents and carers

The Children's Commissioner has released a new guide to help you in managing your child's digital life. The guide was written with direct involvement from children. It includes advice on setting boundaries such as no devices in the bedroom and how to chat to your child. You can find the guide here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/what-i-wish-my-parents-orcarers-knew-childrens-commissionerlaunches-guide-for-parents-and-carerson-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

Don't forget to also download the free **National Online Safety App** which can help you keep up-to-date with new developments in keeping your child/ren safe.

