



# Safeguarding Newsletter

## Term 3



Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome to this addition of our Safeguarding Newsletter.

In this letter we will focus on Online Safety following **Safer Internet Day 2024** which took place on the 11th of February based on the theme; 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'

Each year on Safer Internet Day we cover an online issue or theme that speaks about the things young people are seeing and experiencing online. Created in consultation with young people across the UK, this year Safer Internet Day will be focusing on the issue of scams online and for young people, how to protect themselves and others, as well as what support is available to them.

### Positively online

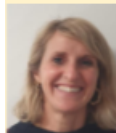
The NSPCC have published six tips to help you improve your family's online wellbeing. They also provide you with a guide on how to talk to your child about what they are doing online as well as a quiz that you can play together.

**You can find our more here:**

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

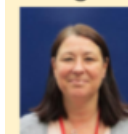
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### LEGO Build and Talk

LEGO® have created Build and Talk to help you chat to your child about online safety. The activities have been created for children ages 6 to 9. Firstly, you pick an activity to do and then you read a story, which includes questions and conversation prompts, whilst you build LEGO® together. This is a fantastic way to start talking to your child about topics such as screen time and cyberbullying. Find out more here: [Build & Talk Guides | Official LEGO® Shop GB](#)

Supported by Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow initiative, this skills tool encourages learning through questions and conversations. It helps young people explore online topics and fosters discussion through conversation starters, whether used alone, with peers, or with teachers, parents, and carers.

#### HYPERLINK

"<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/theonlinetogetherproject/>"

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## Chatting Online

We thought we would discuss the dangers your child might face when communicating with strangers online. In addition to social media apps that include a chat facility, most online games also allow communication, for example FIFA and Fortnite. Depending on the game, this may be via the in-game text chat, direct messages or talking through headphones. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off or restrict bad language so make sure settings appropriate to your child are set up for each of the games they play. You need to be aware that there are people who may use these games to start chatting to your child and then encourage them to chat on alternative apps (which are more private, encrypted or have fewer safety options). Talk to your child about the dangers of doing this.

### What risks are there with chatting online?

- Bullying
- Inappropriate chat - children may encounter explicit or inappropriate content.
- Contact from strangers - talk to your child about who is contacting them online.
- Sharing personal information - talk to your child about what information they share with others including images.

### How can I mitigate the risks?

- Ensure your child is accessing age-appropriate apps/games and that appropriate parental controls are set up.
- Chat to your child about the risks above so they are aware of what can happen online.
- Depending on the age of your child, it may be more appropriate for devices to be used in family rooms so you can monitor what they are doing and if they are chatting to others.

## Useful contacts

First Response: [To report any safeguarding concerns.](#)

[This can be done anonymously 0117 9036444](#)

Refuge: Domestic abuse support [0808 2000 247](#)

Saneline: Emotional Support [07984 967 708](#) (leave name and number and someone will call you back)

