

Online safety for parents and carers

Your child is already aware that life in secondary education requires an increased level of learning, responsibility and participation. We expect our students will undertake extra work at home, much of which will be internet based.

The online world is a wonderful place for young people to explore, with unprecedented opportunities for learning and creativity, *but just like the real world there are risks and dangers they should be aware of and which we should all act to protect them from.* As a College, we encourage the use of technology in a safe environment.

As a parent/carer you can play a significant part in ensuring they spend their time online safely. You can help keep them safe and give them the awareness to know what to do if they feel uncomfortable about anything they encounter while on the internet.

If you don't want your child to be able to access any inappropriate content online, please ensure that their computers and other devices have parental controls installed.

You can contact your internet service provider (such as BT, TalkTalk, Sky) for more information on how to do this.

As a **minimum**, we advise you set parental controls on search engines and the mobile phone your child uses.

You can visit Google's informative safety centre to see **simple** step by step guides - www.google.com/familysafety/tools

Please be aware that no filter is 100% accurate. We advise that you also talk to your child about the sites they visit.

Let them know that you understand that situations occur online and that seeing 'adult' material can make them feel uncomfortable. Make sure they know that you are there to help.

If you want to find out more and learn how to keep your son safe online, you can visit The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) parents' information website for more information - www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Online safety: Internet 'not designed for children'

From the BBC online section [Education & Family](#)



Image copyright: Getty Images

Social networks can be a great way of allowing children to stay in touch with their friends. However, there's currently no common set of child safety rules or laws that social media sites have to follow. Each site gets to decide what steps they take to keep children safe.

The NSPCC and O2 are working together to help parents to keep their children safe on social networks – and our top tips include:

- Changing privacy settings and turning off location sharing. For tips and support in doing this, call the O2 NSPCC Online Safety Helpline on 0808 800 5002 or [make a face-to-face appointment](#) with an O2 guru in-store (available even if you're not with O2).
- [Talk with your child](#) about what they like to do online.
- Download the O2 NSPCC Family Online Agreement from our [Share Aware](#) page so you can agree rules and boundaries with your children about online safety.

Read the full article here: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/keeping-children-safe-social-networks>

Focus on... 'Fortnite'

What is it? The multiplayer action survival game, *Fortnite: Battle Royale*

Want to know more about it?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-43379630/should-you-limit-your-children-s-time-on-fortnite>

Fortnite has received a lot of media coverage recently both positive and negative. It is a game growing in popularity amongst children and involves 100 players fighting each other in real time to be the final survivor. To survive players collect weapons and armory and build structures to defend or hide in, while battling everyone else in the game. Epic Games: Fortnite Battle Royale says it does not direct the game to children under the age of 13 in the UK. As with other multiplayer games, there have been online safety concerns raised regarding Fortnite including: chat via text or voice, violent imagery, in-app purchases and possible game addiction. Visit the net aware site for further information about the game and how to keep your children safe while playing it.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/fortnite-all-you-need-know/>

Help keep your child safe online when playing online games:

- Talk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and how to stay safe. Let them know they can come to you or another trusted adult if they're feeling worried or upset by anything they have seen
- Use digital devices together: Get involved in your child's online activities. Have fun, play games, and learn together online
- Set clear expectations: Agree your own rules as a family when using sites, apps and games
- Set time limits: Games can be addictive
- Be informed: Set appropriate parental controls

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Abbey College.

The Netflix logo is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters against a solid red rectangular background.

Do you know what your children are watching on Netflix?

Netflix releases second series of the controversial '13 Reasons why'

Mental health groups are among those who have raised concerns about how the show depicts suicide.

The series, shown exclusively on Netflix, tells the story of an American high school student who takes her own life, leaving behind 13 cassette tapes for the 13 people she blames.

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2018/may/11/netflix-criticised-over-return-of-suicide-drama-13-reasons-why>

How to set parental controls on Netflix

https://help.netflix.com/en/node/264?ui_action=kb-article-popular-categories

Check the recent viewing activity on your Netflix account

<https://www.netflix.com/ViewingActivity>

Nude Selfies: What Parents and Carers Need to Know



Could you chat to your son about the risks of sharing revealing selfies?

With the rise of the selfie has come growing concern about young people taking and sharing revealing photos or videos – you’ve probably seen this referred to in the media as ‘sexting’. This is risky behaviour for anyone, but especially for young people.

As a parent, there’s plenty you can do.

Take the time to watch the new Thinkuknow short films *Nude Selfies: What Parents and Carers Need to Know*. They’re packed with information and advice on helping your child avoid taking risks online, how to know what’s safe and what’s not, and where to get help if anything goes wrong.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/oldparents/Nude-Selfies-What-parents-and-carers-need-to-know/>



Do you use restricted Mode?

This is a way of pre-moderating content that your children are seeing on YouTube; it’s a parental control to help you attempt to stop your children seeing videos that may be inappropriate. I say ‘attempt’ because it’s reasonable at best. In the words of YouTube: “An optional setting that you can use to help screen out potentially mature content.....we use many signals such as video title, description, metadata, community guidelines reviews and age restrictions to identify and filter out potentially mature content.”

Switch it on because it also filters out comments on videos; some of those comments can be inappropriate. But note that it needs to be enabled on each device that your child uses. Note: if your child has their own account and have indicated they are under 18 they will not be shown restricted content.

Webcams and livestreaming

Live streaming is a visual broadcast live over the internet using any smart phone or tablet with a camera. It is increasingly becoming one of the most popular online activities for children and young people. Apps such as Musical.ly, Live.me, Periscope and YouNow are all growing in popularity. Live streamed videos are broadcast unedited and shared without delay or editing. Most live stream apps, according to the terms of service, are for 13s and over.

The main risks of live streaming are two-fold, what children might see and also what they might share. With live videoing there is no editing and with this comes the potential for children to see inappropriate, upsetting content. There is also the risk that children will share too much personal information whilst live streaming their own content.

Have a conversation with your child: Are they using livestreaming apps? Are they just watching or are they live streaming their own lives? Have they checked the privacy settings?

For further guidance visit: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/live-streaming-news/>

How safe are the sites, apps and games your child uses?

The NSPCC in partnership with O2 have developed Net Aware, which offers parents useful information about each social network/app, including the age guidance for users.

Visit Net Aware at <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

