

## Online Safety Newsletter: Sept/Oct 2021

### Keeping your child safe online

The internet is essential in 21st century life for education, business and social interaction. As children move up through the school their access to various types of technology increases and it stands to reason that their exploration and curiosity increases too. The positives of the digital world overwhelmingly outweigh the negatives but children, schools and parents all need to be aware of various online

We teach these rules to the students when thinking about internet safety.



**BE SMART ONLINE**

- S SAFE** Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.
- M MEET** Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk).
- A ACCEPTING** Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.
- R RELIABLE** You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.
- T TELL** Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
- BE SMART WITH A HEART** Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM

### Overview of key parental controls

Keeping children and young people safe online is one of the biggest challenges facing society today and it is all of our responsibility to ensure that children are educated to make positive, informed choices when they are online. A guide to parental controls has been sent home with your child.

# What games are your children playing?

Children often ask to play games based on what other children are playing which may mean they ask to play a game that is not always age appropriate for them. Childnet recommend that you talk to other parents first because you may find that actually whilst a lot of children are talking about a game, they're not actually playing it!

Childnet also suggest that in order to make an informed decision about whether your child should play a game you should:

- 1) **Research** - what is the PEGI rating for the game? Can people contact your child through the game? Childnet recommend looking at other parent reviews on <https://www.common sense media.org/>.
- 2) **Discuss** - talk to your child to find out why they want to play the game and maybe offer some more age appropriate alternatives.
- 3) **Explain** - Childnet stress how important it is to talk to your child and explain to them why you have deemed a game unsuitable.

(Source: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/answering-parents-online-safety-questions->)



online



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## Know your PEGI ratings:

All games within the UK are given a PEGI rating of age 3, 7, 12, 16, or 18. This tells you who the game is suitable for based on the type of content you'll see when playing.

Further indicators on the game's packaging explain why it's been given its rating.

Find out more information here:  
<http://www.askaboutgames.com/pegi-rating/>



## Helpful links for parents:

**Parent INFO:** Help and advice for families in a digital world. Parent Info is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP, providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations



**Thinkyouknow** Highly recommended is the Thinkyouknow website. This is an education initiative by CEOP - the UK's national law enforcement agency that focuses on tackling sexual abuse of children.



Google: Visit [Google's Safety Centre](https://www.google.co.uk/familysafety/tools.html) to learn how to change Google's search settings to Safe Search filtering: <http://www.google.co.uk/familysafety/tools.html>