

The Internet is a great space to learn, stay connected and enjoy ourselves. Help to keep your child safe online by keeping up to date with online trends, risks and news. If in doubt about any aspects of online safety don't hesitate to contact the Safeguarding Team at your child's Academy who can offer advice and support.



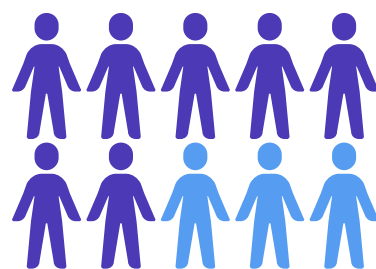
SAFER INTERNET DAY 2024

Safer Internet Day is celebrated across the country every year and this year takes place on 6 Feb 2024. Academies across the Trust will be highlighting the importance of online safety as well as celebrating all the positives of the internet and advocating for change. To tie in with this the NSPCC are running their Game Safe Festival. If you would like to join a webinar to find out about how young people game online and what tools there are to keep them safe, [click here](#)

LIVE STREAMING

Livestreaming is broadcasting to an audience in 'real time'. The audience can leave comments, give likes to the person who is streaming and, in some cases, 'gift' the streamer. Some platforms let several people livestream at the same time. Children are likely to have spent more time on livestreaming and video apps in the last few years. While many children will be using these apps to talk to friends or family, some children may be talking to people they don't know, or sharing personal information without realising.

Whilst there may be some positives of livestreaming, as with lots of things children do there can be negatives too. For example children may feel less inhibited online and more vulnerable to being pressured. They may receive or engage in bullying comments or have pictures or videos taken of them without their consent. They may also see upsetting comments or content. One of the most important things you can do is to talk to your child about what they do online. The NSPCC has more information and guidance on livestreaming [here](#).



Ofcom data from 2023 suggests that 92% of 3-4 year olds currently watch any video sharing platform whilst 6% are already live streaming themselves. By age 11, 13% are live streaming their own content whilst 55% are watching livestreams and 96% are watching any video sharing platform.



WHAT IS SWIGGLE?

Swiggle is a free search engine designed to provide a safer environment for kids taking their first steps on the road to safe online searching.

Powered by Google Custom Search, the results are filtered using Google SafeSearch and educational resources prioritised. Search terms are also filtered to check that Swiggle is not being used to search for inappropriate content.

To find out more, including how to use Swiggle, click on the image above.

TALKING TO MY CHILD ABOUT ENJOYING THE INTERNET SAFELY



Young people regularly use different websites and apps from their parents, and it can be hard to keep up in this ever-changing digital world. But it doesn't need to be that complicated because the things that help keep them safe online are often similar to the things that keep them safe offline. And communicating openly and honestly is one of them!

Encourage your child to talk about their online life in the same way you would their offline life so this becomes normal and expected. Talk about what you do online, what they think is normal and what behaviour to expect from others and themselves.

Encourage your child to think critically and question what they see online. This is especially important as AI content increases. Ask them about where they go to get information they trust, talk about fake news, fake followers and scams. Help them develop a healthy suspicion of whether people are who they say they are. Share your knowledge and experience of relationships. For example, sometimes people seem nice at first and then they turn out to be mean. Let them know that you know this, they can talk to you about it. And that you won't panic or punish them if they do.

Show them how to report any worrying behaviour they see online – for example through Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command or the Internet Watch Foundation (see links to the left).

We are helping prepare our children for their futures if we help them go online safely and responsibly. Many people worry about amounts of screen time, but there can be lots of positives about what your child is doing online – entertainment, keeping in touch with friends and researching homework – so quality screen time is what's important.

UNDERSTANDING SECURITY FEATURES

There's lots of information out there about the security features of different apps – too many to put in one newsletter. To enable you to check that security features are enabled on any apps your child may be using, Ineqe have produced 'safety cards' to take you through the safety features of a wide range of popular apps including Fortnite, Roblox, Xbox and even Amazon – so you might find them useful too!

Find the safety cards here; <https://ineqe.com/safeguarding-hub/safety-cards/>

Useful links

The following websites all contain useful sources of information for parents and carers

