

E-Safety Newsletter February 2021

With online learning, more time at home with tech and less contact with friends, online safety has never been more important. Here's few things to look out for and discuss with your children.

Keeping in touch

Is your child using a Conferencing app as part of keeping in touch with school such as Microsoft Teams, Google Meet or Zoom? This article provides you with some general advice to help you keep your child safe as well as further links tailored specifically to the app/platform they may be using: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/keeping-kids-safe-onconferencing-apps/>



Is your child using Discord?

As with any site that includes a chat facility, there are risks involved. Learn more about Discord here and help your child to use it safely: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/discord-everything-you-needknow-about-chat-service>

Screen time

As children are at home learning, there may be an increase in how long your child is spending online. This site offers age appropriate guidance relating to screen time and how you can balance it and set boundaries. <https://>

Do you need further support?

ParentZone have produced a list of support services, help-lines and reporting channels that you may find useful: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/where-report-and-get-support-duringlockdown>

Safer internet Day

Safer Internet Day 2021 will be celebrated around the world on Tuesday 9th February. The global theme is 'together for a better internet'. The focus is how young people can tell fact from fiction. You can get involved by visiting their website which has lots of advice, activities and films.



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WhatsApp

You must be at least 16 years old to register for and use WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows you to send messages and videos. One of the main features is that it has a Group chat function that are set up by one person (who is the admin). Everybody in the group, even if they're not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see all messages. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages through the group. In settings, you can change who can add your child to groups, for example, you can change the settings to 'my contacts', which means that only those in your child's contacts can add them to a group (those not in their contacts will have to send them an invitation to add them first).

WhatsApp has been used in instances of online bullying, for example sending nasty messages or sharing images of other children without their permission to embarrass them. We need to ensure we talk to our children about being kind online. Encourage them to think about their digital footprint by thinking about the things that they say, do and share online. We also need to lead by example and model the type of behaviour expected online. This is a really useful article to help support your child online and how to be a positive role model: <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-social-media-and-the-internet/>

It's also important to note that WhatsApp has a live location feature which allows you to share your real-time location for a specific amount of time. You can change your options in settings to never share your location. If your child is using WhatsApp, then show them how to block and report contacts and remind your child that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns.

Cunch

Cunch-Line Chronicles is a simple 2-dimensional game which promises users a realistic depiction of 'London gang life'. The game draws on themes such as UK gang culture, drug running, police chases, and trap houses (places where drugs are stored). Users essentially run through areas, jump over obstacles, deliver and collect drugs and escape police.

'Cunch' is a slang word for County, so the game is said to be based on the 'County Lines' phenomenon. The game was released in 2020 and has become popular with many young people throughout the UK.