

Online Safety

Helping your child to stay safe online

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Having a conversation with your child

It is really important to chat with your children on an ongoing basis about staying safe online. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help

Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online –

- What games do you and your friends like to play online?
- Can you show me the websites you visit the most?
- Shall we play your favourite game online together?



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Ask them if they know where to go for help –

- Where can they go to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use?

Ask them about how they stay safe online –

- What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them?
- What is OK and not OK to share?

Having a conversation with your child

Think about how you each use the internet –

- What more could you do to use the internet together?
- Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

Talking to you child about phone safety

Talk with your child about responsible use of their phone –

- Discuss what is okay and not okay to use their phone for. Talk about time limits and expectations of where the device can and cannot be used, this could include things like the phone being charged outside their bedroom overnight.

Discuss what to do if something upsetting or worrying happens –

- Give them the strategies they need in case something concerning happens whilst they are using their device. This could be to lock the screen and tell an adult, to make a report to the platform they are using, or to block the user.

Talking to you child about phone safety

Explore parental controls –

Take a look at the controls available both on the phone itself and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.

Talking to you child about laptop safety

Talk with your child about responsible use of their laptop –

- Discuss what is okay and not okay to use it for and look at the possible risks. Tell your child what they should do if something goes wrong while using it. This could be to close the screen and tell an adult. See below for conversation starter ideas.

Think about the location of the laptop –

- Will it be used in a shared family space or in a bedroom? Think about: setting time limits; reminding your child about the risks of communicating online with people that they do not know; and encouraging them to come to you with any worries.

Talking to you child about online gaming safety

Why do you want to get a games console?

- Whilst deciding if it is time for your child to have their first games console can be a great opportunity to find out what your child expects to use it for. This could be for playing online, playing with siblings or friends, or for playing by themselves.

What do you like about your games console? What is your favourite game?

- If your child already has a games console, you can ask them about their favourite things to play, you can ask them to teach you to play the game and explore the ways to report and block players or content whilst playing together.

Talking to you child about online gaming safety

What game do you really want to play?

- When talking about games your child wants to play, you can take a moment to discuss age ratings and what different content is available on different games. This can be a good opportunity to discuss your expectations around the games that your child can and can't play.

How do young people your age use their games console?

- Learning about the way that young people are using devices and games can give you a insight into who your child may want a new game or console.

Talking to you child about online gaming safety

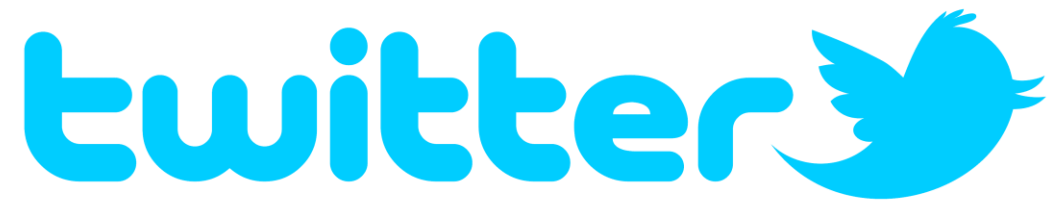
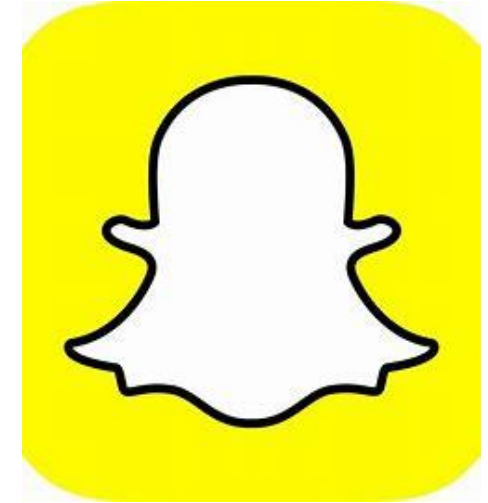
How can we as a family help you to manage the time you spend gaming? Can we do anything to help you use the games console more safely?

- Finding out how your child wants to be supported whilst online is a great way to open up wider conversations around online safety and the issues young people may face whilst gaming. You can also look at establishing a family agreement to manage your families time online.

What would you do if something worrying or upsetting happened on your games console?

- Tell your child what they should do if something goes wrong while using it. This could be to close the screen and tell an adult. See below for conversation starter ideas.

Talking to you child about social media safety



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When and how to report issues

If you're worried that your child is being groomed online or sexually exploited you should report your concerns to CEOP.

It is not always easy to spot the signs of online grooming and sexual exploitation so if you have any concern at all about someone your child is in contact with, you should get in touch.

- You should always report if your child is or has been in contact with someone who is:
- Chatting online to your child about sex
- Asking them to do sexual things on webcam
- Asking to meet up if they've only met them online
- Requesting sexual pictures
- Making them feel unsafe

When and how to report issues

CEOP is a command of the National Crime Agency and can investigate what is happening – with the assurance that the safety and wellbeing of your child is paramount at all times.

If you are concerned that your child is in immediate danger, call 999.



Education from
the National
Crime Agency



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How to report to Staffordshire Police

If you feel someone is in immediate danger please **call 999**

If you would like to report a crime please call 101 or report it online via Facebook messenger, Twitter messenger or directly to Staffordshire Police website

<https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Useful Resources



NSPCC



childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111



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