



To try our best at everything we do

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Inappropriate Content Online Advice for Parents

Dear Parents / Carers,

Please see an update below from the Local Authority with updated advice regarding keeping your child safe online:

There has been an increase nationally in the number of schools reporting that children, while at home, have accessed content which is not always appropriate to their age.

While there is no perfect way to eliminate this risk, here are some of the practical steps you can follow to help keep your child safe:

- Contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP): Companies that provide broadband such as BT, Sky and Virgin, offer free protection for parents and carers. They can filter your internet connection directly, without having to install anything. Guide on how to use this can be found here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>
- YouTube is a fantastic resource, but not all the content is appropriate for children and not all YouTube channels are made for young audiences. YouTube has an app just for children – YouTube Kids – but many people don't realise that the main YouTube app has a restricted mode. Check out more about how it works here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>
- Games consoles have features that can limit what games they can play based on the age ratings, and can even turn off certain features to allow gaming to be a little safer. To learn more about these features visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>
- Games are also rated based on the content, not how difficult they are. 18 rated games can have very graphic violence, adult language and themes, sexual content and horror elements. Learn a bit more about appropriate games by visiting <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/> or visit this site for more about game ratings <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/pegis-games-ratings-explained>

It's important to remember that no filters or controls are 100% effective so please contact us at school if you would like any support or have any concerns regarding keeping your child safe online.

Kind regards

Nichola Allerston

Our Key Values: Commitment to Achieve, Caring, Respect, Co-operation, Happiness, Independence

