

Grooming

Grooming is a process used by people with a sexual interest in children to attempt to engage them in sexual acts either over the internet or in person. Sadly, these people do attempt to contact children over the internet. This may be in social networking sites, chatrooms, or games. They could be pretending to be someone else or showing an interest in them. It is important that children understand that people like this exist. Grooming is a process of manipulating a child to gain control over them. As a parent or carer, you should be approachable so that if your child is concerned about something, they know they can talk to you. If you are concerned about someone's behaviour towards your child, you can report this directly to CEOP. Young people can report directly to CEOP and this can be done using the CEOP reporting button on the School's website.

Inappropriate Websites

Sometimes your child may see things that they wish they had not or are inappropriate for their age. Parental controls can help reduce the risk of your child seeing age-inappropriate sites. However, no parental filters are 100% effective and inappropriate material can always slip through the net. You should encourage your child to tell you if they have seen anything that makes them feel uncomfortable or upset so that you can help them. If you think the content might be illegal, like sexual images of children and young people, you can report it directly to an organisation called the Internet Watch Foundation.

Losing Control Over Pictures and Videos

Pictures and videos can be copied, shared and spread at great speed. What may have started as a post for a few friends can very quickly end up in the hands of the entire school and beyond. Some young people have posted or sent sexualised pictures of themselves to a boyfriend or girlfriend and found them shared further. Some of the main risks with this type of image being in the hands of someone else include:

- Bullying – young people can be bullied by others about the content of pictures.
- Distress – knowing that other people they do not know are looking at personal pictures can be very upsetting.
- Blackmail – if the images end up in the hands of someone with bad intentions, they may be used to attempt to manipulate the child.
- Reputation – once something is online it is difficult to remove. Images can become part of a young person's 'digital footprint' and potentially affect them in the long-term, such as if someone searches their name as part of a job interview.

Misinformation/ Disinformation

Misinformation is commonly known as 'fake news'. Misinformation is the sharing of incorrect information; disinformation is the sharing of incorrect information with a malicious intent. Both can take various forms such as memes, fabricated or cloned websites and news. It also includes manipulated and edited images and videos (also called deepfakes).3065

ICT,



Children and e-Safety

Information for Parents and Carers



Information & communication technology (ICT) in schools and in the home, is increasingly used by children, parents, and practitioners

The aim of this leaflet is to inform you about:

- how the internet can be used safely at home
- where you can find further information to keep your children safe when accessing the internet

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Simple Rules for Keeping Your Child Safe

To keep your child safe:

- set up parental controls on all devices. If you are unsure of how to do this, we can help you.

Ensure that your child:

- asks for permission before using the internet and is supervised whilst online.
- only uses websites that have been agreed as suitable
- tells a parent/ carer straight away if they see or hear anything inappropriate whilst online
- uses a nickname when using games on the internet
- never gives out personal details online
- is aware that parents are monitoring the use of the internet

Top Tips for Keeping Your Child Safe Online

- Know who your friends are. Because 'friends' have access to their personal information and can chat to them, your children should only be friends with people that they trust. Talk to your child about who their 'friends' are, encourage them to think about where and when they 'met' people and whether it is appropriate to share information with them.
- Manage the information you share with them. On most sites, children can control the amount of information they share with different groups of friends. For example, you might share some holiday snaps just with your family or select group of friends. Your children should only share personal information with people they know and trust.
- Never meet up with someone you only know online. People might not always be who they say they are. It is important that your children understand this rule too.
- Know what to do if someone or something upsets you online. It is important that you and your child are aware of what you can do to block and report this.

Useful websites

www.childnet.com www.internetmatters.org www.saferinternet.org.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Using the Internet Safely at Home

The internet can be an amazing resource when used appropriately. However, it also comes with risks. Understanding the risks and dangers are key to helping to educate your child about internet safety. Risks include:

- Contact with strangers via social networking, chatrooms or games
- Cyber bullying
- Grooming
- Viewing inappropriate websites
- Losing control over pictures and videos
- Exposure to misinformation/ disinformation such as deep fake videos and photographs (videos and photos that have been manipulated/ edited)
- Exposure to hate speech or extreme views
- Viruses, hacking, and security

Parents are advised to set security levels on computers and other devices to their highest setting to reduce the risks whilst online. This will allow parents full supervision of their child whilst using the computer, enabling children to explore and learn from a wide range of age-appropriate materials and games. It is important that clear boundaries and rules are set, and that children know this is to keep them safe.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is when someone uses the internet or technology to bully someone else. Because we use the internet and technology everywhere, this type of bullying can affect young people not just at school, but at home as well. The nature of this bullying means it can have a large audience; many of whom may not even realise they are being bullied.

If your child has been cyberbullied, make sure that they:

- do not respond to the bully.
- block contact with the bully.
- save relevant communication, such as texts, emails or webpages.
- report the incident either to the website or service provider, your child's school or, if it is persistent harassment, to the police.

Hate Speech or Extreme Views

Hate speech refers to expressing hatred or intolerance of other social groups or individual based on inherent characteristics such as race, religion or gender.

Viruses, Hacking and Security

Each of these are defined as an act of compromising digital devices and your internet system, often to gain unauthorized access to personal or organizational data.