

Keeping your child safe online

What we do at school, what makes the biggest difference at home, and who to contact when something goes wrong.

1. THE SCHOOL DAY IS PHONE-FREE

Children do not have a phone, smart watch or similar device from the moment they arrive until the moment they leave. This is now the expectation for every school in England.

If you need to reach your child during the day, ring the school office and we will pass the message on.

2. What we do at school

- We filter the internet on school devices, so most harmful content is blocked before it reaches a screen.
- We monitor activity on our network, and staff are alerted to anything concerning.
- We teach online safety in computing and PSHE lessons, and in assemblies.
- We test every year that our filtering actually works, and report the result to governors.

3. The honest limit of that

Our filtering has no effect on your child's tablet on your wifi, or on a phone using mobile data. Almost every serious online incident we deal with began somewhere we could not see. What happens at home matters more than what we block here.

4. Five things that make the biggest difference

- **Check the age rating.** Most social media and messaging apps require users to be 13, and some 16. No child at this school is old enough for them.
- **Charge devices outside the bedroom.** Overnight is when most unsupervised contact happens.
- **Set up parental controls.** On the wifi and on each device. Internet Matters has step-by-step guides for every make.
- **Play the game or open the app with them.** You cannot judge a risk you have never seen.
- **Ask every week, not only when something goes wrong.** "Who did you talk to online this week?" works better than "is everything fine?"

5. Two things that are new this year

- **AI chatbots that behave like friends.** Many apps now offer an AI "companion". Children forget it is not a person and tell it things they would not tell you. These are not built for primary-aged children.
- **Altered and AI-made photographs.** Ordinary photographs of children can now be altered by AI into fake images. Keep social media accounts private and think before posting publicly.

6. The sentence that matters most

"If anything online worries you, you can tell me and I won't take your tablet away."

Fear of losing the device is the single most common reason children say nothing.

7. If something happens

Tell us first

Speak to your child's teacher, or ask for the Designated Safeguarding Lead. We would always rather know.

An adult has contacted your child

Report to CEOP at ceop.police.uk. If your child is in immediate danger, call 999.

A photo of your child is online

IWF Report Remove. Free, confidential, and it works. Search "Report Remove".

Upsetting, but not illegal

reportharmfulcontent.com will chase the platform on your behalf.

Your child needs to talk to someone

Childline, 0800 1111. Free and confidential.

8. TALK TO US — WE WOULD ALWAYS RATHER KNOW

School office: [PHONE] • [EMAIL] • Designated Safeguarding Lead: [NAME]. The full Online Safety Policy is on our website, and we will print you a copy on request.