

Online Safety Newsletter

July 2023



With the summer holidays fast approaching, children tend to have more access to online devices such as iPads and phones and it is important that parents are aware of the potential dangers to children. Sometimes children may behave in a way that they wouldn't if they were face to face with each other. Talking to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face. How they act online should be how they behave on the school playground when they are following school rules.

It is also important that your child understand that if they receive unkind messages or see something that worries them online, they should report it to an adult that they trust. Reporting any offensive or harmful content and blocking users to ensure they are unable to contact again. For more information please visit the link below.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/kids/i-want-help-with/how-do-i-know-if-im-being-mean-online>

TOP INTERNET MANNERS

Internet Matters have produced a list of 'manners' that we all should follow to create a safer and kinder online world. Please visit the link below for more information:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/top-internet-manners/>

HOAXES

Social media provides the perfect platform for hoaxes, which are said to be harmful to children and young people and can spread quickly. You should carefully consider if a challenge or scare story is a hoax. Generally speaking, naming an online hoax and providing direct warnings is not helpful. Concerns are often fuelled by unhelpful publicity, usually generated on social media, and may not be based on confirmed or factual information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/harmful-online-challenges-and-onlinehoaxes/harmful-online-challenges-and-online-hoaxes>

Talking to and reassuring your child and explaining to them that bad stuff will not happen if they do not complete the tasks are not real. It is vital to talk to your child about hoaxes that may appear on the internet. However some challenges are fun and provide no risk, however there will be challenges that are risky and dangerous. Your child may see others complete certain challenges online without being harmed and therefore may want to repeat and try them without weighing up the potential risks to themselves. It is important to make sure they know that they should talk to you about what they see online, particularly if they plan to try a challenge or if something scares or upsets them.

Please visit the link for further information as well as content to help you talk to your child:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/theres-a-viralscare-online-what-should-i-do/>

TikTok have produced this resource to help you talk to your child about challenges and the potential risks.

<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en-sg/online-challenges/>.