

# Online Safety is about Behaving Appropriately

## Top Tips for Parents / Carers

## What Can Parents Do?

### 1. Use Online Safety 4 Schools Resources

Use the Online Safety Top Tips for Parents & Top Tips for Young Users to maintain an appropriate use of Social Media & Gaming sites and Apps. Use the Apps and Sites resource to understand the possible issues and harm that may occur



### 3. Covid 19 & Virtual Schooling

During COVID- 19, virtual schooling, lockdown and excessive internet access, parents, carers trusted adults must speak openly with their children, about the dangers of social media, and online predators, parents can better prepare children for the dangers of online activity.

zoom

### 5. Privacy Settings & Involvement

It is essential to have security settings in place. Parents should also monitor their child's social media activity by becoming "friends" or following them on various social media accounts and being present while kids are using social media in the house.

### 7. Use Apples Family Sharing or Google Family Link

Family Sharing is accessed via the iPhone or iPad settings & apple ID page, this allows for the syncing of devices to 1 Apple account, meaning other users devices cannot install Apps without permission. Google Family Link syncs the same way but is an App from the Play Store.

Family Link

### 9. Speak with School & Other Parents

Speak to School Principal, the School Designated Safeguarding Lead, or the Class Teacher to discuss any issues you may have. Also speak to other parents on what access & devices they allow their children to have – especially before 'sleep overs' or 'visits'



### 2. Guidance & Presence

GUIDANCE

Remind all children and young adults that they can always come to them for help, guidance, and advice. Important they show themselves as 'responsible' before setting up their own profiles.

### 4. True Friends NOT Stranger Danger

Make sure that your child only interacts, messages, and engages with 'True Friends'. True friends are friends who do not ask personal questions e.g. Family, cousins, school friends and outside school friends.

True Friends Are Hard to Find

### 6. Live Streaming

LIVE STREAMING

Always Check on Live Streaming - choosing a generic screen name and profile picture, that hides a child's identity is a must. Additionally, in the live streaming App, it is important for parents to monitor their child's live broadcasts to keep things in check by passively watching. (eg Discord – Steam – Periscope – Twitch etc)

### 8. Switch off GPS & Location Services

Posting on Social Media (eg Instagram) whilst the device GPS is on, allows for free software to be used that can track all posts, this in turn allows for an individual search of one user which can highlight the most common place the users post from (ie Home). Gmail (which is on most devices) also tracks the device to the minute, highlighting exactly where the user is or had been and again highlights the most common place (ie Home). Switch GPS Off.

### 10. Denying Usage (As a Last Resort)

Online Safety remains about using dialogue with your children & young adults, and not about denying usage. Certainly, as a last resort, denying access can work but before you get that far, try using Online Safety Top Tips

