

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

## Keeping Children Safe Online

While there are huge benefits to being online to stay connected to family and friends during this period, the government recognises many parents feel concerned about the activities and content their children are accessing. This guidance outlines resources to help keep children safe from different risks online and where to go to get support and advice.

### **Keep your child safe online.**

It is important to have regular conversations about staying safe online and to encourage children to speak to you if they come across something worrying online. Talk to your child about the importance of creating a safe online environment, including keeping any log-in details and passwords safe.

The resources below will support you to talk to your child about a range of online safety issues, set up home filtering in a child-friendly way and set up age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices:

- [Thinkuknow](#) by the NCA-CEOP provide resources for parents, carers and children of all ages to help keep children safe online.
- [Childnet](#) has developed [guidance for parents and carers](#) to begin a conversation about online safety, as well as [guidance on keeping under-fives safe online](#).
- [Parent Info](#) is a collaboration between Parent Zone and NCA-CEOP, which provides guidance and support for parents and carers related to the digital world from leading experts and organisations.
- The NSPCC have created [guidance for parents and carers](#) to help keep children safe online.
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) offers tips and advice for parents and carers to keep children safe online - you can also [report any harmful content found online through the UK Safer Internet Centre](#).
- [Parents' Guide to Age Ratings](#) explains how the British Board of Film Classification rates content, and gives parents advice on choosing online content well

### **Age-inappropriate content and parental controls.**

If you have downloaded new apps or bought new technology to help stay connected at this time, remember to review and adjust privacy and safety settings if you or your child is signing up to a new online service. [Internet Matters has step-by-step guides](#) on how to set up parental controls so that you can control what content your child can access online. The [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) has guidance on how to switch on family-friendly filters to prevent age-inappropriate content being accessed on devices in your home.

### **Apps to help children stay safe online.**

The BBC has a website and app called [Own It](#). The website helps children navigate their online lives, and the free app comes with a special keyboard which can intervene with help and support in the moments that children need it the most. It can be downloaded for free in the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. [SafeToNet](#) is an app for parents to help them protect their children from online risks, while respecting their child's rights to privacy.