

Useful websites and further information:

The NSPCC, Internet matters and Childnet have online safety advice and guidance for adults.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Net-Aware can give parents and carers advice and guidance on specific apps, including their risks with regards to sexual risks, violence and hatred, bullying, suicide and self-harm and drink, drugs and crime.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

Newspaper articles about the risks of sharing photographs of children:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/australasia/paedophile-websites-steal-half-their-photos-from-social-media-sites-like-facebook-a6673191.html>

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/tech/6696598/parents-sharing-photos-kids-social-media-paedophiles/>

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/photos-shared-on-pedophile-sites-taken-from-parents-social-media-accounts>

If you have any further question please speak to a member of staff.

Worstead Preschool

Keeping your child safe in a virtual world



Keeping your child safe in the virtual world.

Many children now have access to the internet from a very young age by using a wide range of devices. How can you stay up to date with technology as a parent, and how can you keep your younger child safe online?

Here is a simple checklist of how you can help your pre-schooler to stay safe online:

- Explore together. This may be for new games, to look at something interesting or to learn together.
- YOU be in control. Set up your parental controls on your home broadband.
- Ensure your child uses their devices in a communal area where you can keep an eye on them
- Use child friendly search engines like 'Swiggle'.

There are many risks to your child, some you may not have even thought about! These can include:

- Too much screen time (for 3-4 year olds the recommended amount of time is 6 hours per week)
- Cyber bullying
- Inappropriate content (swearing, violence and nudity)
- Online grooming
- Online pornography
- Sexting
- Self-harm
- Radicalisation
- Identity Theft.

What else can I do?

As the parent/carer you also need to think about how you can keep your child's identity safe online.

Have you ever...

- Shared school pictures?
- Shared pictures of your child at the beach, in the bath, at the swimming pool or at a sporting event?
- Celebrated your child's birthday?
- Shared your location?

Cyber safety expert Susan Mclean wrote:

"When you post anything online, it does not matter where it is, you have lost control of it. Many parents do not lock down their accounts in the same way kids do. It does not matter how innocent the photo is, if your child has got what a predator is looking for they will take (and use) that photo"

Parents and carers should lock down their social media accounts, and check privacy settings, sharing images of their children with a select few. **How many of your 500 friends on Facebook do you really know? There is an estimated 144,000 UK accounts online alone linked to paedophiles.**

Images of children taken from social media accounts, while innocent, may be used by paedophiles in **Facebook groups**. The images are often accompanied by highly explicit and disturbing user comments.

Even worse, an image of your child's head may be morphed on to another child's body who is being sexually abused. The resulting image would look like your child is being abused.

Links to newspaper articles can be found overleaf.