26th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have recently been dealing with some incidents of online safety and sharing of images/videos and would like to remind you of the importance of helping children stay safe online. As technology continues to be a part of everyday life, it is essential that we work together to ensure our students have positive and secure experiences when using the internet.

Keeping Children Safe Online

Children may use the internet for learning, games, videos, and communication with friends. While there are many benefits, there are also risks such as inappropriate content, online bullying, and contact from strangers. Here are a few simple ways you can help keep your child safe:

- **Talk openly** with your child about what they do online and encourage them to share anything that worries them.

- **Set clear rules** for internet use, including time limits and appropriate websites or apps.

- **Use parental controls** on devices, search engines, and home broadband to limit access to unsuitable content.

- **Check privacy settings** on apps, especially social media and messaging platforms.

- **Encourage safe behaviour**, such as not sharing personal details, passwords, or photos with people they do not know in real life.

How to Report Concerns

If you or your child ever come across something online that causes concern, please take one of the following actions:

- **Talk to us at school**. You can contact a member of the safeguarding team, and we will support you in dealing with the issue. Please email admin@fairfield.hereford.sch.uk

- **Report online content** using in-app or website reporting tools (for example, on YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, or gaming platforms).

- **For serious concerns**, such as online grooming or exploitation, you can make a report to **CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command)** at *www.ceop.police.uk*.

- **If a child is in immediate danger**, call **999**.

Resources for parents

UK Safer Internet Centre

- Their "Parents & Carers" section has a lot of practical guides for different devices (phones, tablets, consoles) and social media. saferinternet.org.uk+1

- They also provide *conversation starters* to help you talk to your children about online safety. saferinternet.org.uk

- They have social media checklists for popular platforms. saferinternet.org.uk+1

CEOP / Thinkuknow

- Thinkuknow is a CEOP education programme with a section just for Parents & Carers. Advice ranges from how to use parental controls to talking about "nude selfies." ceopeducation.co.uk

NSPCC

- Their "Keeping children safe online" hub offers advice on talking to your child about online risks (bullying, social media, etc.). NSPCC

- They run free online safety workshops for parents/carers that you can watch virtually. NSPCC

- Advice on online abuse: signs to look out for, and how to support your child. NSPCC

- Age-based tech guidance: how to set up parental controls, what boundaries to set for different age groups. NSPCC

- Their advice on how to talk to your child about online safety is very good. NSPCC

Internet Matters

- A non-profit specifically aimed at helping parents navigate digital life. Their site gives tailored advice. Internet Matters

- They have a "My Family's Digital Toolkit" — answer a few questions about your child and get resources personalised to their age, your concerns, and online habits. Internet Matters

- They also have videos (e.g., about e-safety for different age ranges) to help with parent-child conversations. YouTube

GOV.UK Guidance

- **"Child Safety Online: A Practical Guide for Parents and Carers" – gives really solid, practical tips on how to use privacy settings and start conversations about online risks. GOV.UK**

- **There is also guidance about age-appropriate content and how online services should moderate for children. GOV.UK**

Working together, we can help ensure that all children are able to enjoy the internet safely and responsibly. If you have any questions or would like further guidance on online safety, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs Hart
Designated Safeguarding Lead

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