

Bredbury St Marks
Safeguarding Newsletter
Autumn 2023

ONLINE SAFETY

HOW SAFE IS YOUR CHILD ONLINE?

**A NEW STUDY BY CHILDWISE
FOUND THAT 53% OF CHILDREN
BETWEEN THE AGES OF 7 AND 16
YEARS ARE PHONE OWNERS BY
THE AGE OF 7**

**BY THE AGE OF 11 90% OF
PUPILS HAVE THEIR OWN
DEVICE SPENDING ON AVERAGE
3 HOURS AND 20 MINS ONLINE**

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR
CHILDREN ARE WATCHING
ONLINE? ALWAYS CHECK THE
RECOMMENDED AGE FOR THE
APPS THEY ARE USING**

**STUDIES REPORT THAT 70% OF CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 7
AND 18 HAVE SEEN OR ACCESSED INAPPROPRIATE ADULT
CONTENT ONLINE**



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD?

SOCIAL MEDIA

- TALK TO THEM ABOUT THE RISKS
- ASK WHO THEY ARE SPEAKING TO ONLINE - IS IT FRIENDS OR STRANGERS?
- DISCUSS THE RISKS OF SHARING PICTURES ONLINE
- ASK THEM TO TELL YOU IF THEY SEE INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
- LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF TIME YOUR CHILD IS ONLINE
- MAKE SURE YOU HAVE SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON THEIR DEVICES

We are seeing difficulties arising in school from online messaging services such as snapchat and whatsapp. Although children do not have access to devices during the school day, online "fall outs" with friends can often carry over in to the school day disrupting your child's learning.

- Are the games and apps they're using appropriate to their age? Have a conversation and agree some rules with your child about what games and apps they're allowed to use. While there are risks with most online platforms, we'd recommend only letting your child use apps that have privacy settings and a 'report and block' feature.
- Do they know about the safety and privacy features of the apps they're using? Such as:
 - Privacy settings. Are their accounts public or private?
 - Do they know how to block and report? Are those features available?
 - Can you turn features off, such as chat and in-app purchases?
 - Do they know what personal and private information is, and what is and is not appropriate to share online?
 - What are their profiles on their games and apps? What does the profile say about them? What does the image or avatar say about them?

GET SUPPORT:
NEED ADVICE ABOUT ONLINE SAFETY? IF YOU'RE STUCK, NOT SURE WHAT TO DO, OR IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CHILD, YOU CAN CONTACT THE NSPCC TRAINED HELPLINE COUNSELLORS ON 0808 800 5000.
CHILDLINE ALSO HAS LOTS OF INFORMATION ABOUT ONLINE AND MOBILE SAFETY THAT WILL HELP YOU AND YOUR CHILD.