



As we enter a period of time where many students will be learning at home and using an increased amount of internet/ social media to communicate. We felt it important to remind both students and parents about the importance of online safety. Please see the guide below which will answer some questions and provide information on how to seek support if needed.

We have also set up a safeguardin email address in school, which you can contact should you have any questions/ concerns:

[safeguarding@leasowes.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@leasowes.dudley.sch.uk)

### **Starting a conversation about online safety**

It can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they're doing online or who they might be speaking to. But talking regularly, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed and mean that when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you. It can help to:

- reassure them that you're interested in their life, offline and online. Recognise that they'll be using the internet to research homework as well talking to their friends.
- ask your child to show you what they enjoy doing online or apps they're using so you can understand them.
- be positive but also open about anything you're worried about. You could say "I think this site's really good" or "I'm a little worried about things I've seen here."
- ask them if they're worried about anything, and let them know they can come to you.
- ask them about their friends online and how they know they are who they say they are.
- listen for the reasons why your child wants to use apps or site you don't think are suitable, so you can talk about these together.
- ask your child what they think's okay for children of different ages so they feel involved in the decision making.

### **What is inappropriate or explicit content?**

As children start to explore the internet, they may come across content that isn't suitable for their age, or that may upset them or worry them. Inappropriate content can include:

- terror attacks, beheadings and bombings
- cruelty to humans and animals

- self-harm sites
- pro-anorexia and eating disorder content
- pro-suicide content
- sexual abuse and rape
- violence and distressing content
- hate sites
- online porn

### **What is sexting or sending nudes?**

Sexting or sending nudes is when someone shares a sexual message, naked or semi-naked image, video or text message with another person. It doesn't have to be a nude image of them and could be an image of someone else.

Young people can send nudes using phones, tablets and laptops and can share them across any app, site or game, including during a [livestream](#). Many young people also share them on social media channels.

We've got advice to help if you're worried your child might have been sending or receiving nude images, or if you want to talk to them about the risks.

### **What are the risks of sexting?**

It's important to [talk to your child](#) about the risks of sexting and let them know they can come to you if someone's pressuring them to send or share nudes, or if they're worried about something. Some of the risks of sexting or sending and sharing nudes for children and young people are:

- losing control of the images, videos or messages and how they're shared. Once something's shared online it's public and can be saved or copied by others.
- blackmail, [bullying](#) and harm. Young people can have their photos, messages or videos shared without their consent or be bullied about them. This can lead to them feeling difficult emotions like distress or embarrassment and shame.

### **What are online games?**

Gaming is a great way for young people to relax, socialise with their friends and have fun. Children can play on games consoles, apps or websites, mobiles, tablets, PCs, or through smart speakers and virtual reality headsets. They can also chat to other players using messaging platforms for gamers, or watch [livestreams](#) of well-known gamers.

You can find out more about the different types of games children like to play on [Net Aware](#).

### **Why young people play online games**

Some of these reasons young people like to play games online include:

- socialising with friends. When gaming children can play together on the same team, or play against each other.
- games based on location, such as Pokémon Go and Wizards Unite, encourage players to go outside and explore.
- watching videos and livestreams of other people playing, or share tips with other players to develop their own gaming skills.
- games are designed to be entertaining and can be fun and engaging for young people.
- watching their favourite gamers on YouTube or livestreaming on Twitch. They may also want to livestream themselves playing games.

### **What are livestreaming and video apps?**

Livestreaming is broadcasting to an audience in 'real' time. The audience can leave comments, or give likes and kudos to the person streaming. Some platforms let several people livestream at the same time.

There are livestreaming apps like Twitch and Yubo, but young people can livestream on other social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram. Many young people also post pre-recorded videos on video apps like YouTube and Vimeo, or video chat in groups or one-to-one, using apps like WhatsApp.

Young people like to livestream and use video apps for lots of reasons. These include:

- to learn or show others how to do something – livestreams of people playing video games are particularly popular
- to stay in contact with family and friends
- to take part in viral trends
- to be creative
- to relax – many video apps have 'satisfying content', such as food being prepared.

### **What are the risks of livestreaming and video apps?**

Children can feel pressured (Tab content hidden) (Tab content hidden)

Children may communicate with people they don't know online (Tab content hidden) (Tab content hidden)

Videos being recorded or shared without a child's consent (Tab content hidden) (Tab content hidden)

Children can receive nasty or negative comments (Tab content hidden) (Tab content hidden)

Children can view adult, inappropriate or upsetting content (Tab content hidden) (Tab content hidden)

Sharing their location and personal information (Tab content hidden) (Tab content hidden)

## **Tips to keep your child safe**

### **1. Talk to your child**

[Talk to them](#) about what they're doing online and how they can stay safe. Let them know they can come to you, or another adult they trust if they're feeling worried or upset by anything they've seen online. They can also get support from [Childline](#).

### **2. Explore apps and sites together**

Explore what your child likes to do online together. This can help you to understand why they're using certain [livestreaming or video apps](#). You can use [Net Aware](#) to help you.

### **3. Agree what's appropriate together**

Agree your own rules as a family when using apps, sites or games. You can use our [family agreement template](#) to help get you started.

### **3. Check your settings**

Check the technology your family uses and use privacy and location settings to keep your child safe. You can call our O2 NSPCC Advice Line for support on [0808 800 5002](#).

## **Support to set up parental controls**

Talking to your child so that you understand what they're doing online can help you to explain and protect them from any risks, such as [grooming](#) and seeing [inappropriate content](#).

For further support, you can:

- call our O2 NSPCC Advice Line on [0808 800 5002](#) for advice on apps, sites, games and online safety.
- visit an O2 Guru in store – our trained advisors can help you set up parental controls.
- use [Net Aware](#) to have a look at the apps, sites and games children like to play online.

## Apps to be aware of:



Honk



Google Duo

Google Duo is a free video calling app where you can chat one-to-one or in a group of up to 32 people.



Chatroulette

Chatroulette is an online chat site that connects you with other users from around the world via video chat.



Kidschat.net

Kidschat.net is a free online messaging site aimed at children. You can talk to people you don't know on public forums and via private message.



MeWe

MeWe is a free social media platform which allows you to connect with friends, family and people you might not know.



Omegle

Omegle is a free online chat site that lets you speak to other users without registering. You can choose to talk via text chat or video call.



Rec Room

Rec Room is a social gaming platform where you can create and play games.



Among Us

Among Us is a game set on a spaceship played with 4-10 other players. Players can choose to join a game with people they don't know or create their own private game with friends.



Fall Guys: Ultimate Knockout

Fall Guys: Ultimate Knockout is a multi-player game where players must navigate through different obstacle courses and levels while competing against up to 59 other gamers.



Harry Potter: Puzzles and Spells

Harry Potter: Puzzles and Spells is a free mobile puzzle game. Players complete different levels to unlock spells and win gems.



Triller

Triller is a video app, similar to TikTok, that lets you create and edit short videos using effects and music.



Wink

Wink is an app for making online friends with people you don't know.



Club Penguin Online

In Club Penguin Online, players create a penguin, choose a world and interact with other users.



Discord

Discord is a voice and text chat app that's popular with gamers.



Dubsmash

Dubsmash is an app which lets you create videos of yourself that are dubbed over with audio clips.



Episode: Choose Your Story

Episode - Choose Your Story is an interactive storytelling platform.



Facebook

Facebook is a social site which lets you connect with others and share things like comments, photos and videos through your profile page.



FaceTime

FaceTime lets you make video and audio calls from your iPhone, iPad and iPod touch.



FIFA Football

FIFA Football is a gaming app where you can build, manage and play with your own football team.



Google Hangouts

Google Hangouts is a free messaging platform that lets you talk to your contacts.



Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas

Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas is a mobile game where you explore a fictional city as the central character, Carl.



CSR Racing

CSR Racing is a car racing game where you can buy and upgrade cars and race opponents.



Clash of Clans

Clash of Clans is a game where you build your own army and battle against others across the world.



Clash Royale

Clash Royale is a combat multi-player game where players can build their own battle communities.



Google Meet

Google Meet is a video meeting app that lets you send written messages and share your screen.



Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams is a tool that lets users chat to each other one-on-one or in groups, as well as sharing documents.



Messenger

Messenger is a free chat app that lets you send messages, photos, videos and audio recordings.



YouTube Kids

YouTube Kids has been designed as a child-friendly version of YouTube for 0-12 year olds.



Zoom

Zoom is a video conferencing app which has become popular with individuals and schools as a way to keep in touch.



Houseparty

Houseparty is a free video chat app where you can talk to people one-on-one or in groups of up to eight.



Slap Kings

Slap Kings is a free mobile game where you virtually slap your opponent in the face to earn points and go up levels.



YOLO

YOLO is an app that lets users anonymously ask and answer questions posted on Snapchat stories.



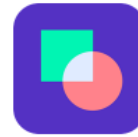
Hoop

Hoop is an app that lets you add users from around the world through Snapchat.



imo

imo is a free video, voice and chat app that lets you talk to your contacts one-on-one or in groups.



byte

byte is a video sharing app that lets you shoot, upload and share 15 second videos.



Mixer

Mixer is a video streaming app and website that's popular with gamers.



Threads from Instagram

Threads is a messaging app from Instagram that lets you keep in touch with your close



Wizarding World

Wizarding World is an app and website that brings together the worlds of Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts.



BBC Own It

The BBC Own It app is an online safety and well-being app for young people.



Minecraft

Minecraft is a game that lets you build and create a virtual world using building blocks.



PopJam

PopJam is an online platform and app aimed at 7-12 year olds.



Reddit

Reddit is a community-based forum where people write posts covering many different topics.



Sarahah

Sarahah is a website and app where you can send anonymous comments to other users.



Score! Hero

Score! Hero is a game where you follow your player through a football career.



Skype

Skype is a platform and app that lets you make audio and video calls to other people around the world.



Smule

Smule is a platform and app that lets you record and upload your own karaoke versions of popular songs.



SoundCloud

SoundCloud is an app that lets you find music, podcasts and news to match your interests.



Steam

Steam is an entertainment platform and app where you can play, discuss and create games.



Telegram Messenger

Telegram is a messaging app where you can send messages, photos and videos to your contacts.



Tellonym

Tellonym is an app that lets you ask and answer questions about each other anonymously.



TikTok

TikTok is a social media platform that lets you create, share and discover 60 second videos.



Tumblr

Tumblr is a microblogging site that lets you share things like text, photos and videos.



Yubo

Yubo is a free social network that lets you connect and chat to new people.



Apex Legends

Apex Legends is a free Battle Royale game where players team up to be the last ones standing.



Harry Potter: Wizards Unite

Harry Potter: Wizards Unite is a game where users explore the world of Harry Potter using AR.



Snapchat

The Snapchat app lets you send photos, short videos or messages to your friends.



**Roblox**

Roblox lets you create your own games or play games that other users have made.



**Fortnite: Battle Royale**

Fortnite is a multiplayer action game where players fight each other to be the last one standing.



**Friv**

Friv is a free gaming site that offers a wide variety of games to play.



**Instagram**

Instagram is a popular picture and video sharing app.



**Twitch**

Twitch is a live video game website where you can watch playbacks of games.



**Twitter**

Twitter is a social media site and app that lets you post messages called tweets.



**Viber**

Viber is a free messaging app that lets you text, call, and share photos and videos.



**Wattpad**

Wattpad is a storytelling platform where you can create, read and learn how to write stories.



**Kik**

Kik is a messaging app that lets you send text, photo and video messages to individuals or groups.



**Line**

Line is a messaging app that lets you chat by text, audio and video message.



**Miniclip**

Miniclip is a collection of solo and multiplayer games that you can play on your mobile or computer.



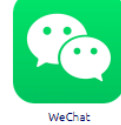
**Monkey**

Monkey is a social chatting app that uses live-streaming to randomly connect you with other users.



**Coin Master**

Coin Master is a game where players raid and attack other people's villages.



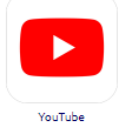
**WeChat**

WeChat is a popular social network you can use to chat with friends.



**WhatsApp**

WhatsApp is a messaging app which lets you send messages, images and videos.



**YouTube**

YouTube lets you watch, create and comment on videos.



**MovieStarPlanet**

MovieStarPlanet is an online game and app where you create and play as a famous movie star.



**Pinterest**

Pinterest is an online interactive pin board used for photo sharing.



**PlayerUnknown's Battleground (PUBG) Mobile**

PlayerUnknown's Battleground (PUBG) Mobile is a battle royale shooter and fighting game.



**Pokémon GO**

Pokémon GO is a free smartphone game where users find and catch Pokémon.