



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 safeguarding email address in school, which you can contact should you have any questions/ concerns:

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 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	 Chatroulette	 Kidschat.net	 Zoom	 Houseparty	 Slap Kings	 YOLO
 MeWe	 Omegle	 Rec Room	 Among Us	 Hoop	 imo	 byte	 Mixer
 Fall Guys: Ultimate Knockout	 Harry Potter: Puzzles & Spells	 Triller	 Wink	 Threads from Instagram	 Wizarding World	 BBC Own It	 Minecraft
 Club Penguin Online	 Discord	 Dubsmash	 Episode: Choose Your Story	 PopJam	 Reddit	 Sarahah	 Score! Hero
 Facebook	 FaceTime	 FIFA Football	 Google Hangouts	 Skype	 Smule	 SoundCloud	 Steam
 Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas	 CSR Racing	 Clash Royale	 Telegram Messenger	 Tellonym	 TikTok	 Tumblr	 Snapchat
 Yubo	 Apex Legends	 Harry Potter: Wizards Unite					

**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 Pokémons.