



Safeguarding Newsletter July 2022

Welcome to our new safeguarding newsletter that will keep you up to date with essential information regarding safeguarding your children this summer. For this issue, we will be focussing on online safety. Have a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing everyone in September.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for child protection is: **Bernadette Frain-Atallah**

The Designated Manager for Allegations against Staff & Volunteers is: **Fiona MacCorquodale**
The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (Deputy DSL) are:

Fiona MacCorquodale, Beverley Newman, Simone De Juan, Aoife McMonagle, Nicola Cafferkey and Eva Stokes.

The Designated Teacher for children looked after (CLA) is: **Simone De Juan**

The Designated Governor for safeguarding and child protection is: **Grazia Piras**

BRAND NEW

National Online Safety Mobile App

It's time to get **#OnlineSafetySavvy**.

Children are spending more time than ever online. As adults, we need to do everything we can to keep them safe in the digital world. But with new apps, games and platforms emerging every day, how can you stay in the know?

Say hello to the new National Online Safety mobile application. Created by experts, developed by us. With all online safety knowledge available at your fingertips, the NOS app empowers parents and teachers to understand and address online safeguarding risks – any time, anywhere.

The world's most comprehensive online safety app, it's packed with insightful courses, explainer videos, webinars and guides on topics that will help you protect the kids you care about when they're online.



Here are some online Safety Tips for Parents and Carers to Keep Children Safe over the Summer

School's out ... for summer! Yes, it's that time of the year again: around six weeks at home for ecstatic youngsters. For many young people, a bumper stint off school means a welcome chance to spend even more time with their games console, phone, tablet or smart TV. So, whether your children are likely to be scrolling on Snapchat, nestling in front of Netflix or frying foes on Fortnite, we've put together some top tips to help you keep them safe online this holiday.

A free online safety guide on keeping children safe online over summer. In the guide, you'll find tips such as set a screen time limit, setting a good example and limit social audiences.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they need it. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Online safety tips for parents & carers to KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE OVER SUMMER

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THERE'S NO NETWORK, LIKE HOME

Teenagers, especially, tend to be delighted to find that a coffee shop, restaurant or shopping centre offers free WiFi. These public networks are much less secure than home WiFi, though, so discourage your child from making online purchases or entering personal details when out and about.

LIGHTS OUT, SCREENS OFF

This is a golden rule: try to limit how much screen time your child has towards end of the day. Staring at the screen of a phone or tablet for too long before bed severely impacts a child's quality of sleep – which can play havoc with their concentration, mood and energy levels the next day.

FOCUS ON FACTS

The internet is phenomenal at spreading gossip. When children of certain ages aren't in daily contact at school, the digital rumour mill can go into overdrive. Remind your child not to believe everything they're told online – especially if the person involved isn't around to provide their side of the story.

KEEP TALKING

It sounds blindingly obvious, but having regular chats with your child about who they're talking to online, what games and apps they're using and what shows they're streaming is a huge benefit. It doesn't have to be every day or even every week, but it can signal potential issues well in advance.

PRIVATE INFO STAYS PRIVATE

It's worth checking your child's social media or gaming profiles occasionally to make sure they aren't inadvertently giving away too much information. Details such as their full name, address or where they go to school could all be used to track them down by individuals with sinister intentions.

LIMIT SOCIAL AUDIENCES

When they're old enough, young people love to broadcast their summer holiday highlights all over social media. The unfortunate truth, however, is that we don't always know who might be viewing this content. Check the settings to ensure that only friends and family can see your child's posts.

DEMONSTRATE GOOD HABITS

Children often learn their digital behaviour from watching the grown-ups around them. So make sure your child observes you being positive and supportive on social media, for example – and, especially, sees that you know when it's time to switch the screen off, even though you're having fun.

WATCH FOR EXCESSIVE GAMING

With no school, children often take every opportunity to sit in just one more pop on their favourite game – sometimes at the cost of their daily routine, or having family time. A little extra gaming is to be expected in the holidays, but it could become problematic if it evolves into a recurring habit.

IT'S 'THE GREAT OUTDOORS' FOR A REASON

For most northern hemisphere-dwellers, this time of year is a rare opportunity to enjoy the outside world in pleasant weather. Remind your child how amazing it is to feel the sun on their back and fresh air in their lungs. Disney+ and Minecraft will still be there on drizzly Sundays in October.



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"Fortnite is a popular online video game where players compete to be the last person standing in a post-apocalyptic world. Understand the potential risks to your child and what steps you can take with this factsheet."

Keep your child safe on Fortnite

Fortnite is an online video game where players compete to be the last person standing in a post-apocalyptic world. The most popular version is Fortnite: Battle Royale, which sees up to 100 players pitted against each other to stay alive on an island. Players can build and demolish structures, and collect weapons, supplies and armour to help them along the way

Players shoot each other using a range of lethal weapons, but the brightly-coloured, cartoon-style graphics and lack of bloodshed mean it doesn't feel too gory or graphic

The age recommendation to play is 12 and above – but you don't have to provide your age when creating an account, so younger children can still use it easily

Fortnite: Battle Royale is free to download on PC/Mac, Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch, Android and iOS devices (Apple phones and tablets)

What are the concerns?

You may have seen news reports or heard concerns raised about:

Communication between players: they can talk to each other via messaging or a headset and microphone. Children could speak to strangers or be at risk of cyber-bullying, we are aware of some of our children using abusive and racist language with friends and possible strangers

In-app purchases: children can build up large bills on their parents' accounts by buying cosmetic items, like outfits for their character, and better-looking weapons ('skins')

The game's addictive nature: there have been stories of children staying up all night to play, and falling asleep in lessons. Some people say this is down to the communal feel of the game – you can play with your friends – and because it's different every time you play

3 steps to take to keep your child safe

1. Use the parental controls on your gaming device

Most devices allow you to set time limits on game play, set age limits for content, and restrict in-app purchases. Go to the website below for links to detailed instructions on your child's device – it covers PlayStation, Xbox, Apple and Android phones, and Nintendo Switch:

- Ask About Games - www.askaboutgames.com/advice/parental-controls

Battles in Fortnite last around 20 minutes, so make use of this natural stopping point when limiting your child's screen time. Set a limit in terms of matches rather than hours and minutes, or set time limits in 20-minute increments

2. Turn off the voice chat feature

Speak to your child to make sure they understand how to use this feature safely. Encourage them to follow the steps below if they meet someone who is offensive or inappropriate in the game.

To disable the in-game voice chat function:

Select the menu icon, then 'Settings'

Select the 'audio' tab (it's represented by a speaker icon)

Tap the arrows next to 'voice chat'

To 'mute' individual players:

Pause the game

Hover over the player you wish to mute and select the mute button (a loudspeaker icon)

3. Make sure your child knows how to report inappropriate behaviour

To report players who make your child feel uncomfortable:

Select the menu icon, then 'Reporting/feedback'

On the 'Feedback type' tab, select 'Report player'

Select the reason you want to report the player

On the 'Select player' tab, select the name of the player you want to report

On the 'Submit' tab, select 'Accept' to send the report

Select 'Send report'

What else can I do?

Download and play the game to help you understand it

Take a look at the other parental controls explained on the Epic Games website:

<https://bit.ly/2o3YnaC>

Talk to your child about what they're doing online, and make sure they know they can talk to you about anything that has upset them. See more guidance from the NSPCC on how to do this here: <https://bit.ly/1HpjYgO>

Check your bank statements and gaming system account balance regularly for in-app purchases you're not happy with, and to make sure your child isn't getting around any passwords you've set up

<https://www.priorweston.islington.sch.uk/parents/online-safety>



Snapchat has added a new feature called 'Meet Up'. It means people can view someone's location and get directions to where they are, without the other person being notified.

Parents should listen out for children talking about using the Meet Up feature.

Parents should advise their children to:

- Only be friends in Snapchat with people they know and trust offline

- Set their Snap Map settings to 'Ghost Mode' so their location isn't visible to other users

For more information, share our [factsheet on Snapchat](#).

Minor illness and school attendance – a guide for parents and carers.

I thought it will be helpful to re-circulate our Minor illness booklet as I know many families are unsure when to send their child in to school, where illness is a concern.



<https://www.priorweston.islington.sch.uk/files/parents/attendance/Minor%20Illnesses%20and%20Attendance.pdf>

The NHS link below also contains the same information/advice.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Other helpful internet safety resources for parents

Search engines

Please note that no search engine is ever 100% safe but below provides some links to some "safer" search engines:

Research searching

[nICE](#)

[CBBC](#)

[Kids Yahoo](#)

Google offers a safer search option for children searching on the Internet. You can find out how to do this by downloading the instructions at the bottom of the page.

Image searching

[Pics4Learning](#)

[picsearch](#)

Gaming

When children are accessing games via Xbox LIVE, privacy settings can be set up. [To read more, click here.](#)

Websites for more information

Please click on the icon to go to the relevant site



CEOP (The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) delivers a multi-agency service dedicated to tackling the abuse and exploitation of children in the real and 'e' world. Often it is referred to as an online 999. By clicking on the button, young people and parents can get advice on a range of issues such as viruses, hacking and dealing with bullying online.

Vodafone have produced a [Digital Parenting Magazine](#) which informs parents about the various technologies children are accessing today. There is information on Facebook settings, Xbox 360 settings, Blackberry settings, jargon busting and many more 'How to Guides'. They are well worth a read and some are attached below for you to download.



The "Thinkuknow" website is brought to you by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) centre.

Kidsmart gives you lots of advice on how to stay safe online.

New e-Safety Portal for Parents and Schools – Internet Matters

**internet
matters.org**

Internet Matters is a new online portal designed for parents to access simple, easy and practical advice about online safety for their children, right through from pre-school to teens. It provides tips on protecting children from online grooming, cyberbullying, privacy and identity theft and inappropriate content. Internet Matters is a not-for profit organisation set up by BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media.



ParentINFO is a collaboration between ParentZone and CEOP. There are useful guides and articles on helping your child stay safe online.

If you have any concerns about the safety and/or welfare of a child contact the Children's Services Contact Team. (CSCT) is the single point of contact for all services for children, young people and families in Islington who may need extra help and support. If you are worried about a child, please phone the Contact Team in the first instance.

020 7527 7400 - Children's Services Contact Team

020 7527 3366 - Disabled Children's Team

Regards

Bernie

Safeguarding and Welfare Lead

