

Online Games

Is your child playing or watching others play games online? Your child could be using Twitch, Steam, Roblox, YouTube etc to access games or watch others play. We need to make sure that what they are viewing is appropriate for them. It is important to talk to your child to see what they are interested in so you can have a look first to see if they are appropriate. For example, there are games that may appear to be appropriate but are actually horror/ survival games and characters can turn more sinister as the game progresses.

More information

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online>

Safer School NI

We are delighted to invite you to download the Safer Schools App. Further information on this can be found on your child's seesaw account.



Did you know? 92% of children in Northern Ireland use video sharing platforms, with 53% using social media and 65% accessing messaging apps.



If your child hasn't already been using these platforms, they soon will be! Therefore, it's more important than ever to be aware of how to keep your child safe.

How will the Safer Schools NI App help you?



- Provides you with easy-to-follow steps on how to make your home devices safer.
- Keeps you up to date with the current online trends, threats, and risks to your child.
- Delivers the information you need to know on social media and gaming platforms, helping you understand the latest buzzwords and how to set privacy and parental settings on platforms like Among Us, Minecraft and TikTok.
- Offers expert guidance to help you navigate important issues such as bullying, mental health and healthy relationships.

Focus on - Snap Chat

What is Snapchat? You must be 13+ to sign up.

How does it work? Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time period e.g. 10 seconds. Users can also upload snaps to stories which then disappear after 24 hours.

What should I be aware of? Who is your child friends with – talk to your child about who they are friends with and why it is safer to be friends with only those they know in real life.

- **Group chats** - in a group chat there may be people that they're not friends with on the app who can then communicate with them in the group. This also increases their risk of interacting with strangers.
- **Snap Map** - The map lets users see where 'friends' are. Location sharing via the map is optional and is off by default (we recommend that it remains off).
- **Snapchat streaks** - Streaks count how many consecutive days two people have been sending Snaps to each other, this can increase pressure to respond daily.
- **Inappropriate content** – due to the nature of the app your child may come across content that is inappropriate.
- **Screenshots** – whilst Snaps disappear, users may take screenshots before they do, potentially resulting in them losing control of what they have shared as it could be sent to other people.
- **Bullying** – there is a risk of bullying on all platforms so please ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary.

Steps to keep your child safe online at home

According to the latest research from Ofcom, nearly half of all 3-4 year olds have their own tablet (Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2022) so it is never too early to start chatting to our children about how to stay safe online. But how can we do this? Here are some of our suggestions:

1. Explore together: Ask your child to show you their favourite websites and apps and what they do on them. Listen, show interest and encourage them to teach you the basics of the site or app.
2. Chat little and often about online safety: If you're introducing them to new learning websites and apps while school is closed, take the opportunity to talk to them about how to stay safe on these services and in general. Ask if anything ever worries them while they're online. Make sure they know that if they ever feel worried, they can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust.
3. Help your child identify trusted adults who can help them if they are worried: This includes you and other adults at home, as well as adults from wider family, school or other support services who they are able to contact at this time. Encourage them to draw a picture or write a list of their trusted adults.
4. Parental controls: Use the parental controls available on your home broadband and all internet enabled devices in your home.
5. Supervise their online activity: Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an adult is able to supervise. Children of this age should not access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in a bedroom or bathroom.

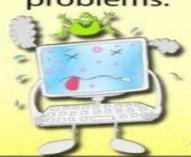
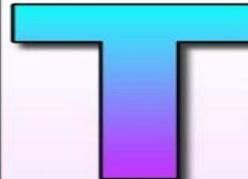
Jessie & Friends cartoons – <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends-videos/>

A three-episode animated series which helps keep 4-7s safe online. It explores three popular online activities: watching videos, sharing pictures, and online gaming.

8 – 11s Play Like Share cartoons – <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/playlikeshare/>

A three-episode animated series that helps keep 8-11 year olds safe from risks they might encounter online.

K.P.S SMART Targets

 Stay Safe Don't give out your personal information to people / places you don't know. 	 Don't Meet Up Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Always check with an adult you trust. 	 Accepting Files Accepting emails, files, pictures or texts from people you don't know can cause problems. 	 Reliable? Check information before you believe it. Is the person or website telling the truth? 	 Tell Someone Tell an adult if someone or something makes you feel worried or uncomfortable.  Follow these SMART tips to keep yourself safe online! 
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