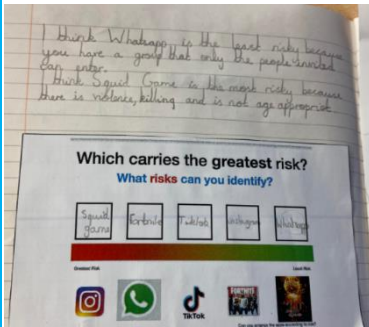
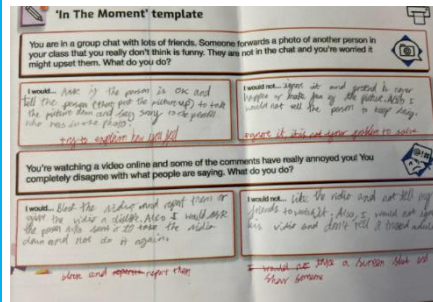


# Online Safety Newsletter #2

## #WakeupWednesday



Happy Wednesday everyone! Thank you everyone who joined in for the Online Safety information evening last night, I hope it was beneficial and you feel more confident when online. The PowerPoint and resources, which I mentioned, will be uploaded onto the school website for those who missed it.



### Online Safety Day- 11/02/2022.

Last Friday, the children participated in our yearly Online Safety Day, the topic was centred on 'All fun and games-exploring respect and relationships online.' The day started with an assembly led by our amazing Cyber Ambassadors and a Kahoot quiz on online safety scenarios. The Cyber Ambassadors did a great job presenting and I am very proud of them! A big well done to the winners, who were 5M (not a fix I promise!) The children then undertook a range of practical activities in their classrooms, from making online safety quizzes on scratch, safety snakes and online ladders, animations and much more! We also had the privilege of a PCSO visiting all classes in the morning. This gave the children a chance to ask any questions on being safe in the community. If you want to know more about the day, please ask your children as I am sure they will be keen to share.

Here are some quotes from children about the day:

*Today has taught me what I should be doing online and it showed me games and APPs that I shouldn't be on.'*

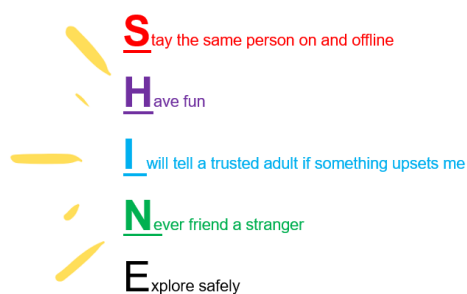
*'I learned that you should always ask an adult before getting an APP. Even if your friend says an APP is good, that doesn't matter if you shouldn't be on it'*

*'I learned that you should never meet up with people you don't know online and always tell your parents where you are going.'*

*'I learned that you should always follow PEGI ratings and then you should never go on an APP your friend recommends if you need to be an age older than what you are.'*

*'Today I learned that if you delete something online it is still there so never post things you shouldn't.'*

### Remember to SHINE online!



Attached on the next page

Our guides/ top tips for WhatsApp and Youtube. Happy half term and remember to be safe online!





**National  
Online  
Safety**

# Top Tips for Parents



## CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though somebody would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra security measure we suggest altering their profile settings to control who can see their profile photo and status. The options to choose from are 'Everyone', 'My Contacts' and 'Nobody'. We suggest selecting 'My Contacts' or 'Nobody' to ensure their profile is protected.

## EXPLAIN HOW TO BLOCK PEOPLE

If your child has received spam or offensive messages, calls or attachments from a contact, they should block them. Messages and status updates sent by a blocked contact will not show up on the phone and will stay undelivered. Blocking someone will not remove this contact from the contact list - they will need to be removed from the phone's address book. To block a contact, your child needs to open the person's chat stream and tap on the settings.



## REPORT SCAM MESSAGES

Advise your child not to tap, share or forward any message that looks suspicious or sounds too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report the number as spam directly inside the chat. They can also report a contact or a group as spam using the following steps: 1) Open the chat. 2) Tap on the contact or group name to open their profile information. 3) Scroll to the bottom and tap 'Report Spam'.

## LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is part of a group that makes them feel uncomfortable or has been added to a group they don't want to be part of, use the group's settings to show them how to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once they leave again, they cannot be added again.

## USING LIVE LOCATION SAFELY

If your child needs to use the 'Live Location' feature to share with you or a friend, advise them to only share it for the amount of time they need to. WhatsApp gives the options of either 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can choose to stop sharing at any time.

## DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child has sent a message to the wrong chat or if a message they sent has contained a mistake, they can delete it. To do this, simply tap and hold on the message, choose 'Delete' and then 'Delete for everyone'. The app allows seven minutes to delete the message after it has been sent, but it is important to remember that recipients may have seen and screenshot a message before it was deleted.

## SET TIME LIMITS

A 2017 study found that by the age of 14 the average child will have sent more than 35,000 texts, 30,000 WhatsApp messages and racked up more than three solid weeks of video chat. Although it is inevitable that your child will use technology, you can still set boundaries. This is not easy, especially since teens use their devices for both schoolwork and free time, often simultaneously.



SOURCES: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/apr/26/whatsapp-plans-to-ban-under-16s-the-mystery-is-here>, <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/whatsapp-update-latest-features-how-to-report-messages-app-download-gd45011.html>



YouTube is an online platform - owned by Google - where anyone can upload & watch video content. All different types of information, advice & entertainment are uploaded & billions of people tune in to watch, rate & comment on it. As a parent, it's important you understand exactly what content your children might be seeing.

## What parents need to know about YOUTUBE

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EASY TO ACCESS

Any child with a Gmail account can sign into YouTube & access videos. Some content is flagged 'age-restricted', but the platform relies on self-verification, meaning kids can get around the rules with a fake date of birth. This could enable access to vulgar, violent & dangerous videos.



### USERS CAN PRIVATELY CONTACT YOUR CHILD

When your child is signed-in to YouTube with their Gmail account, there are various ways they can send & receive messages. This could be via the messages icon, or via the 'About' tab. There is scope here for users who your child does not know to make contact.



### YOUTUBE SUGGESTS RELATED CONTENT

YouTube will often 'auto play' videos based on your child's viewing habits. The aim is to show related & appropriate content. But the problem is it's possible your child will be exposed to inappropriate content that isn't accurately related.



### 'CHALLENGE VIDEOS' CAN GO TOO FAR

Challenge videos refer to a stunt you're encouraged to recreate & film. Many challenge videos can be harmless & for a good reason, like the Ice Bucket Challenge. But some are dangerous & even life threatening, such as the Bird Box Challenge.



### SHARING VIDEOS RISKS YOUR CHILD'S PRIVACY

If your child has a Google account, they can upload their own videos. To do this, they must create a personal profile page known as a 'YouTube Channel'. The videos uploaded here can be viewed, commented on & shared by anyone. This could put your child's privacy at risk.



## Tips To Protect Your Child

### APPLY 'RESTRICTED MODE'

Restricted mode helps to hide any mature or unpleasant videos from your child's feed. It uses YouTube's own automated system & looks at what other users flag as inappropriate content. It must be enabled in the settings menu on each individual device.

### CHANGE WHO CAN SEE VIDEOS

You can change who can view your child's content in the settings. Options include Public (available to all), Private (only available to people you share it with) & can't be shared or limited (available to people you share it with & can be shared further).

### BLOCK CONCERNING USERS

To help protect your child from cyber-bullying, harassment or persistent offensive comments, you can 'block' individual users. Doing so hides your child's videos from the user & stops the user being able to contact your child in any way.

### CUSTOMISE THEIR EXPERIENCE

Influence & control what your child watches using features such as Playlists (your videos play continuously rather than videos YouTube recommends) & Subscriptions (you choose channels your child can watch). It's also good to turn off auto-play by toggling the blue button alongside the 'Up Next' title when viewing a video.

### CREATE A 'FAMILY' GOOGLE ACCOUNT

Create a Google account to be used by the whole family. This will allow you to monitor exactly what your child is watching, uploading & sharing. Plus, your child's YouTube page will display their recently watched videos, searches, recommended videos & suggested channels.



### GET YOUR OWN ACCOUNT

Create your own account so you can explore features yourself. Learn how to flag inappropriate videos, how to moderate comments & how to block users. This will help you feel more confident when providing advice & guidance to your children.

### BE MINDFUL OF CYBERBULLYING

Once your child has posted a video, a worldwide audience can see it. Strangers may choose to comment on the video, both positively & negatively. So, be careful to check comments & any other interactions your child is making through the platform.



### GET TO KNOW POPULAR CHANNELS

It's good to know which channels are most popular with your children. Some of the most popular channels right now are: PewDiePie, HigeHige, Zoella, KSI, JennaMarbles, Markiplier, Smosh, TheGamingCartel & Carper Lee.

### DON'T ASSUME YOUR CHILD IS TOO YOUNG

YouTube and YouTube Kids are quickly becoming the chosen viewing platform for children between the ages of 5-12 & it's likely this trend will only increase. It's also possible children will become familiar with the platform at a younger & younger age. So it's important to understand the positives & negatives of the platform.



### Meet our expert

Pete Badi is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



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