

Stanburn Primary School



Safeguarding Newsletter Spring



WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Child protection officer or Deputies straightaway.

If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999

Meet the Designated Safeguarding Team:



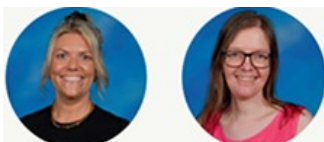
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs R. Malik



Child Protection Officer

Mr M. Lynch



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs K. Hartland

Miss C. Crane

The Safeguarding Team oversee and coordinate all aspects of the school's work to ensure that children are kept safe.

They regularly attend training to ensure their skills and knowledge are up to date.

For a copy of our school's Child Protection Policy, please visit the Safeguarding page on our [school website](#):

Dear Parents and Carers,

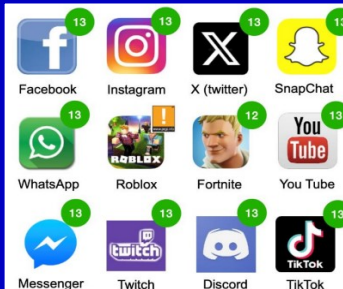
It's been lovely welcoming the children back to school. It seems like a while ago now but we really enjoyed hearing all of their excited chatter about what they had been up to with you and their wider families during the festive break.

I'm sure many of the children will have received gifts that enable them to go online so it is a good opportunity to give some thought as to how we can all support them to stay safe in the virtual world, particularly with the rise of AI technology and the associated difficulties that this brings in terms of distinguishing between the fake and real world. With that in mind, there is a strong focus in this half-term's newsletter on online safety. We will also be sharing lots of useful tips and information regarding our upcoming annual Internet Safety Day which is always lots of fun and very informative for staff, children and parents alike.

Mrs R. Malik (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Get to know age ratings

Age ratings exist to help protect your child, so we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing.



Useful contacts

[Harrow Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) 020 8901 2690

[Childline](#) 0800 1111

[NSPCC](#) 0808 8005000



Staying safe online

Over the festive break I'm sure some lucky children will have received some digital devices like a mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some, it will be the first time they have owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

The **National Online Safety Team** have put together some top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly.



Gifts such as Tablets, Gaming Consoles or Smartphones can all be used to go online so it is important to think ahead about what safety features are available and set them up in advance. The UK Internet Safety Centre have some very useful checklists with things to consider when choosing different devices.

Tip: The Safe Internet Centre has some excellent advice in their Parents' guide to Technology and includes device specific settings for different models:

www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-technology



Setting up Parental Controls on the home internet connection may seem a little daunting but the highly regarded Internet Matters website has some really useful guidance from major broadband providers about setting up online filters.

Tip: Use the **Interactive Guide** on the website at:

www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide



Agreeing some Behaviours and Expectations before children receive devices can prevent some difficult conversations later. Additionally, Childnet have a hand Family Agreement which can be useful, especially for younger children – see www.childnet.com/blog/family-agreement

Tip: good agreements work both ways so if family-time involves no tech, this applies to adults too!



Not sure about Snaps, Streaks or Insta? The variety of **Apps** and **Social Media** tools can seem bewildering at first but the very highly recommended NetAware resource from O2 and the NSPCC is an excellent way to find out more about the different apps and games your child may use – see:

www.netaware.org.uk

Tip: NetAware also has an app for your Smartphone to stay in touch with the latest updates.



Games can be over-looked but remember most modern consoles connect online and often have inbuilt web browsers. Ensuring appropriate gaming content is also important so check the PEGI-rating for different games, including the descriptions such as Sex, Violence or Bad Language – see: www.pegi.info

Tip: Some games offer in-game purchases for additional content. If so, use **vouchers** rather than credit cards to help save you from unexpected bills later.



Don't forget the positives! Being aware of the potential risks the online world poses is very important but don't forget it offers us immense opportunities and benefits, If you still aren't too sure, get involved and ask your child to teach you about their online world and what they do (and don't) like !

Tip: The GSCB's 'Useful Tips for Parents and Carers' section of the GSCB Online Safety Website contains a variety of really useful information.

Spotlight on Safeguarding

Roblox-new parental controls and safety features

Roblox is particularly popular among younger audiences, offering a safe and creative space for gaming and learning. The platform has grown significantly, with millions of active users daily, and has become a cultural phenomenon on in gaming.

Roblox, while offering creative and educational opportunities, can pose risks to children if not properly monitored. Here are some key concerns and how they can impact young users:

- inappropriate content
- online predators
- in-game purchases and scams
- cyberbullying
- addiction and overuse.

In 2024, Roblox introduced new parental controls and safety features for users under 13 years old and announced that they wanted to 'keep users of all ages safe' on their platform. Updated parental controls and safety features:

1) Direct messaging restrictions: to enhance safety, children under 13 can no longer send direct messages outside of games. For in-game messaging, parental consent is required. These measures are designed to help protect your child from potentially inappropriate interactions and ensure a safer online environment.

2) Parental accounts: parents and caregivers can now setup accounts linked to their child's Roblox account. This feature allows you to remotely manage important settings, such as screen time limits, spending controls, and monitoring your child's friend list. It's an easy way to stay actively involved in your child's online activities and ensure they have a safe and enjoyable experience.

3) Content labels: Roblox experiences are now categorised with clear content labels—"Minimal," "Mild," "Moderate," and "Restricted"—to help parents understand their suitability for children. By default, kids under 9 can only access "Minimal" or "Mild" content, while those under 13 are blocked from "Restricted" content unless you give explicit permission. This feature helps you ensure your child is engaging with age-appropriate content.

4) Screen time management: parents now have the ability to set daily screen time limits for their child's Roblox usage. Once the set time is reached, access is automatically restricted until the next day. This feature helps encourage a healthy balance between online activities and other important aspects of your child's day.

5) Experience restrictions: to enhance safety, users under 13 are now restricted from accessing certain types of experiences on Roblox, including social hangouts and those involving free-form writing or drawing. These restrictions are designed to protect your child from potential exposure to inappropriate content and ensure a safer gaming environment.

TOP TIP

The updated parental controls and safety features on Roblox will be effective only if the child's true age is used to set up their Roblox account.

@THE_ENLIGHTENED_PARENT

Three important messages to share with your child:

- * Always remember to chat with friends you know in real life and never share information like address or phone number
- * If you ever see something that makes you uncomfortable or feel unsafe, let me know straight away
- * Stick to playing games that are marked as appropriate for you age and don't accept friend requests from people you don't know.

While Roblox's new safety features offer added protection, it's still important for parents to actively monitor their child's activity. Setting boundaries, reviewing interactions, and maintaining open communication about online safety will help ensure a secure experience. Staying involved and using the available tools will keep your child safe while they enjoy Roblox.

Spotlight on safeguarding

Safer Internet Day– 11th February 2025

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. Safer Internet Day is on 6th February and this year's theme is 'connect, reflect, protect'.

Useful tips, guides and resources for keeping children safe online can be found on the UK Safer Internet website [here](#).



Top Tips for parents and carers of under 7s

These top tips have been written for you (parents and carers) to share, and talk about, with your children. It's never too early to talk about life online!

Inspire change by spending time online together.

As your child starts to spend more time online and on devices, there will be opportunities for them to interact with others, make decisions and see a wide variety of content. Spending time with your child online together is an important part of them learning how they should behave and what to do if they are ever worried, upset or unsure about something on the internet.

Make a difference by having regular discussions about the online world

As your child learns about the internet, they will likely have lots of thoughts and questions. Having regular discussions with your child gives them opportunities to tell you about the things they like doing online, as well as any concerns and worries they may have. A great time to have these conversations is whilst you are spending time online as a family.

Manage influence by being aware of the different things which engage your child online

Your child might be influenced by a range of different things when online, such as exciting adverts, their favourite characters, and even by their friends. Not all influence online is negative, but it is important to be aware of what is engaging your child online and the impact this could have on them as they get older. Balance online influences with your own and your child's thoughts by talking about what they see and hear.

Navigate change by having a clear picture of your child's developing interests

As your child grows up, their interests and hobbies will constantly change, and the things they are doing online are no different. Something they liked yesterday may be something they've lost interest in today. It is important to be curious and stay up to date with the games, apps and sites they are using and the safety settings available, so that you can help keep them safe as they start to explore the online world more.

Remember the 3 Cs...

- **Content** - what are children looking at
- **Contact** - who are they speaking to and
- **Conduct** - how they present themselves and engage with others

Spotlight on safeguarding

Guide to managing children's screen time

More information can be found [here](#).



Effect on behaviour

Constant use of a device and features like auto-play on platforms can be habit forming and encourage children to spend longer on screens

Effect on sleep

Blue light from phones can trick the brain into thinking it's still daylight making it difficult to sleep

Effect on the brain

Screens can have a drug-like effect on the children's brains which can make them more anxious

It can make children more forgetful as they rely on things like Google, GPS and calendar alerts to look up information

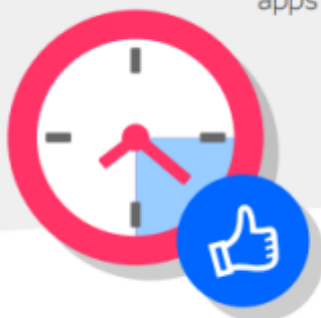
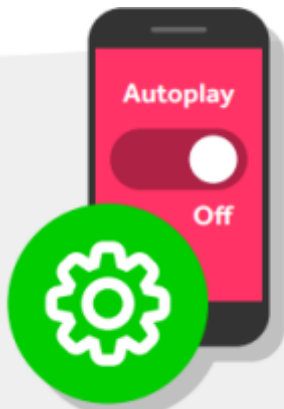
What are the benefits?



- Gives children access to a **wealth of information** to build their knowledge
- Technology **takes away physical barriers** to social connections to make children less isolated
- Exposure to tech has proven to **improve children's learning** and development
- Online games and activities **enhance teamwork and creativity**

Spotlight on safeguarding

10 tips to get in control with your child's screen



1. Set a **good example** with your own device use
2. Have **discussions about the risks** that they may face based on their online activities
3. Put in place a **family agreement** and agree an appropriate length of time they can use their device
4. Help them build **critical thinking** to understand that some features on platforms are design to keep you watching or playing
5. Encourage them to **switch off auto-play** on platforms to remove the temptation to binge on programmes
6. Use **tech tools** and parental control to manage the time they spend online and the apps they use
7. Get the **whole family to unplug** and create 'screen free' zones at home
8. Together find apps, site and games that will help children **explore their passions** and make screen time active
9. For younger children find ways to **combine touch screen use** with creative and active play
10. Encourage children to **self-regulate** the time they spend online and the activity they do to ensure they are having a positive impact on their wellbeing

