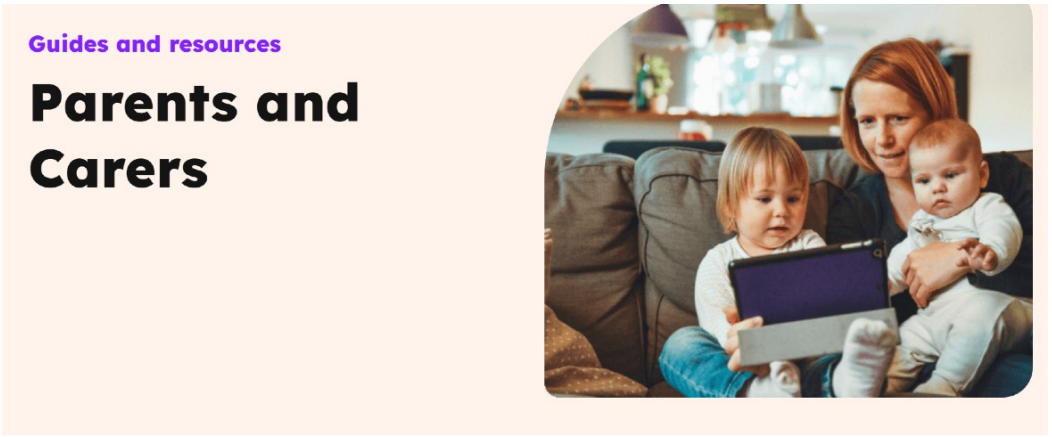
Hello and welcome to our second safeguarding newsletter for parents for 2025

Safeguarding & Child Protection is such an important area of school life, especially for our children and young people. We have a half termly newsletter that shares key information and advice with parents and carers so that we can all work together with the same aim of keeping children safe in school, at home and in the wider community.



Tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online

https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers

Online Safeguarding

With the prevalence of smartphones and online gaming, children and young people often spend their time over the Christmas holidays digitally connected to both friends and strangers.

These devices are often top of lists for young people and can provide fun for not only them but also the whole family. The catch is, of course, that anything with access to online platforms brings risks of cyberbullying, scams, and seeing content not appropriate for children.

A parent or caregiver plays a key role in children staying safe online. Any games or gadgets should be checked for safety and appropriate content, while communications and hours spent on them should be monitored.

Tablets are really popular with younger children, and the market has several which are geared towards child friendly content. When it comes to using them, start slowly; only download games and apps you have checked out carefully (sites such as www.net-aware.org.uk, or www.commonsensemedia.org provide useful advice!) and steer them towards age targeted content.

1. Do your research

Before buying a present, research the manufacturer's cybersecurity history and privacy policy. Also, speak with other parents and guardians about their experiences with the toy or manufacturer.
Spend time this Christmas using your children's favourite apps. Explore the settings before gifting, and

how they work so you are ready to keep them safe online.

2. Create a safe space
Use this space to discuss what your children do online, how they keep themselves safe, who their online friends are, and what apps and games they use. Set clear ground rules for being online so children know what they can and can't do and why it is essential to follow the rules.

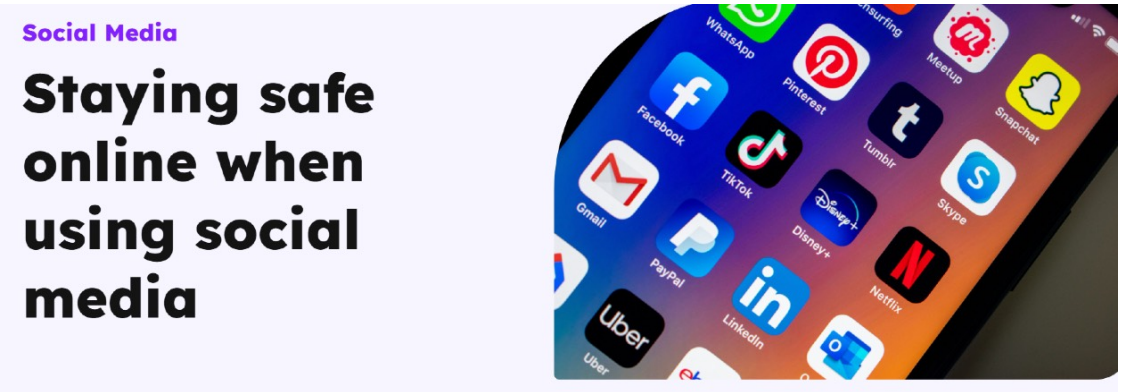
3. Set up parental controls
Set up parental controls before handing over a new toy or mobile device. Most operating systems on mobile phones, tablets, and laptops have them built in, and often, they just need activating.
However, don't rely on one set of parental controls. Use all the tools available and check out parental controls in your children's apps, operating systems, and even with your internet provider.

4. Think about online presence
Be mindful of what personal information children share and try to limit it. Avoid sharing location details or using full names in games or apps. Where a name is needed, limit what is shared by using initials instead of full names. Avoid sharing personal images online too. Instead of using a picture of your child, use their favourite cartoon character, action hero, or animal.

5. Check-in regularly
Online child safety never ends, so continue to check in regularly with your children. Make online safety an everyday conversation topic and keep updated on what they do online. Keep informed on the latest news, updates, and conversations around child online safety and be ready to act accordingly. For example, if new parental controls are released, take time to check them out and, if needed, set them up.

6. You're not alone
Remember you are not alone, and help is at hand. Speaking with other parents, guardians, schoolteachers, and nursery workers about online safety is a great habit to get into.
If you need more help, there are lots of great resources available. Don't forget to check out online resources from child safety organisations, including **Safe Tech, Safe Kids**, **Internet Matters**, and **NSPCC**.

Some more top tips can be found on the link below when thinking about social media and your children's usage.



https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/social-media-3

We would all like to wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Best wishes from

The DSL Team