



## Bolney CEP School | Online Safety Newsletter– October 2020

### Dear Parents

Welcome to our first Online Safety monthly newsletter. This year has been an interesting one as all of us have increased our use of technology for many different reasons. More than ever we need to make sure we are up to date with current information regarding how to be safe online but also we need to be aware of the new games and apps your child may be accessing. Our children are always going to be using technology and it is vital that we at school always discuss online habits and as parents you too make time to discuss their online life. The internet is an amazing resource which enables children and young people to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways, on a range of devices. We hope you find the following information useful in supporting your children online and offline.



### Google Family Link

Does your child use an Android device? Then you may like to set up Google Family Link, which allows you to set digital ground rules for your child. Once set up, you will be able to view your child's activity so you can see what they are accessing and how long they are spending on each app (including setting time limits and adding a bedtime), manage in app purchases and hide specific apps from them as well as being able to remotely lock their device. If the device is connected to the internet, then you can also locate the device.

More information can be found here:  
<https://families.google.com/familylink/>



### Current risks with being online

The UK Safer Internet Centre has placed the current risks into 4 categories. However, these risks vary depending on the age and online activity. Here are the 4 main risks:

**Conduct:** children may be at risk because of their own behaviour, for example, by sharing too much information

**Content:** age-inappropriate or unreliable content can be available to children

**Contact:** children can be contacted by bullies or people who groom or seek to abuse them

**Commercialism:** young people can be unaware of hidden costs and advertising in apps, games and websites



# Most popular App our children are using



In discussion with our children about their online life, we discovered that YouTube was the most popular app being used in all ages. YouTube lets you watch, listen, stream, create and comment on videos. YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13, however the App store rates YouTube as 17+ due to the content that can be found on there. It is recommended that under 13's use YouTube Kids.

The above link that takes you to the BT website will support you in anything you need to know about YouTube and how to adjust settings etc.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/youtube/>

will also have some helpful advice.

Another useful website for parents is Family Videogame Database that lists up to date games and ideas for new safe games. The link is:

<https://www.taminggaming.com/home>

The site has games for all ages and is written by parents for parents.



There are many companies that are always updating resources and information about parental controls, Internet Matters.Org was founded by BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media and helps parents to ensure their children learn, create, share and have fun online whilst staying safe. 74% of parents want more information and advice about online safety. To meet this demand, Internetmatters.org has been created as a one-stop hub, directing parents to valuable help and advice from the leading experts at organisations and charities in the child internet safety field.

<https://home.bt.com/tech-gadgets/internet/how-to-keep-your-kids-safe-on-youtube-internet-matters-11364240897926>



From West Sussex Staying Safe Online, on Tuesday 3 November, Get Safe Online are offering three FREE webinar sessions aimed at parents/carers, titled Staying Safe Online Children's Digital World - the good, the bad and the in between. These can be booked via Eventbrite. The webinars will cover the following:

- Children's online habits
- The risks and dangers children face online
- How you can support your child and report any concerns.

3 November 10:00-11:00 book via [Eventbrite](#)

3 November 13:00-14:00 book via [Eventbrite](#)

3 November 18.00-19:00 book via [Eventbrite](#)