

## Keeping Children Safe Online

**Police information tells us a lot of facts of the dangers children face when online.**

- CEOP estimate that there are 20,000 people online at any one time looking to talk to children.
- Many parents have no idea what their children's passwords are for their devices, this effectively means that parents have no way of checking who they are talking to, what they are accessing or that they are safe online.
- Lots of young people are online late at night without their parent's knowledge.
- Any social media App or Game that has the facility to message, chat or share images with others (including strangers) is potentially dangerous for children. Extra vigilance and supervision is required.
- Some games allow for single player use only which may be a safer option for children i.e. Minecraft.
- Predators strike up conversations with children on social media platforms and then suggest that the chat moves to a different App to allow for more private 1 to 1 conversations. (i.e. KIK)
- Most popular Games and Apps that children are accessing together with recommended age restrictions OMEGLE (13), KIK (13), MUSICALLY (13), SNAPCHAT (13), ASK FM (13), ROBLOX (7), FORTNITE (12), YUBO (13).
- Often PEGI age ratings do not take into consideration the chat feature (which is what effectively makes the game or app potentially dangerous).
- ASK FM has been associated with 9 child suicides in 1 ½ years.
- YUBO is in essence a dating App, formerly called YELLOW.
- An increased number of reports have been seen across the country as a result of children being groomed on games such as Fifa and Minecraft.
- Many children in Primary schools are on games that have an age 18 restriction i.e Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto.
- A 12 year old boy said that he wanted the game 'Grand Theft Auto' as he liked Raping people, another 7 year old boy wrote his Christmas list for 'Grand Theft Auto' adding because he liked driving fast cars, not for the hookers.

**General safety tips on how to keep Children safe online. Please take time to have a read of them.**

**# Safety Tip 1**

Ask your child to show you their favourite things to do online and show an interest in what they do. Talk to your child about the sites they visit, the friends they have, how they communicate with these friends and the information they share.

**# Safety Tip 2**

Set rules and boundaries. This will depend on your child's age but you may wish to consider the amount of time they spend online, when they can go online, websites they can visit, the friends they have, the sharing of images and videos and how to treat people online. Not to post anything online that you wouldn't say face to face. You may also wish to consider using computers and devices in shared family rooms and not allowing their use at bed time.

**# Safety Tip 3**

Online games, movies and social network sites often have minimum age restrictions. Age limits are there to keep children safe. You shouldn't feel pressurised into letting your child sign up to websites that you feel they are too young for or are against age restrictions.

**# Safety Tip 4**

Set parental controls on devices to filter, restrict and monitor content. Ensure the device has good anti-virus software. Internet service providers provide controls to help filter and restrict content. Laptops, phones, tablets, games consoles and other devices that connect to the internet have settings to activate parental controls. All children's passwords should be shared with their parents.

**# Safety Tip 5**

Check Privacy settings of online accounts. Make sure they are set at the highest level i.e. Facebook, Instagram etc.

**# Safety Tip 6**

Talk to your child about what to do if they see inappropriate content or are contacted by someone that worries them, OR if they know this is happening to a friend. Advise your children to tell someone that they trust, for example a parent, carer, relative or a teacher. Stress to them that they will not be in trouble.