

Thomas Telford School

Online Safety Newsletter

Welcome to our Online Safety Parents Newsletter for the Autumn Term. Online Safety is important for everyone to understand. Students will learn a range of different things in school to help expand their knowledge of the internet, social media and online platforms. As parents/carers, we want you to follow this learning journey with us.

Keeping your child safe online

Keep Your Child Safe Online

T E C H

TALK	EDUCATE	CO-VIEW	HOUSE RULES
<p>Talk to your child about their internet use and safety</p> <p>Have meaningful conversations about how they use the internet</p> <p>Praise your child for safe online behaviours</p> <p>Welcome your child if they want to ask you a question or tell you about a problem, even if they've done something unwise themselves</p>	<p>Learn as much as you can about games, platforms, parental controls and the benefits and risks of online activity</p> <p>Teach your child about specific issues and concerns</p> <p>Teach your child about safe and unsafe relationships and how to repair friendships following disagreements online</p>	<p>Co-view your child's online activity at least 1x/week</p> <p>Interact with your child online</p> <p>Model appropriate online behaviour</p> <p>Co-operate with each other to promote the well-being of all</p>	<p>Set clear routines, rules and boundaries ("house rules")</p> <p>Keep to age ratings and guidance for apps, games and devices</p> <p>Restrict online activity to daytime and communal areas</p> <p>Use filters and parental controls</p> <p>Spend regular screen-free time with your child</p>

AGE 11+ for a basic phone or highly restricted smart phone without internet access or social media

AGE 14+ for a smart phone with parental controls

*Agree a contract with your child to encourage responsible phone use

Be smart on the internet

S M A R T

SAFE	Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.
MEETING	Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time.
ACCEPTING	Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!
RELIABLE	Someone online might lie about who they are, and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows.
TELL	Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online. You can report online abuse to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.kidsmart.org.uk

KidSMART





Tips from Mr. Nicholls- Talking about Online Safety

"It is important to have regular conversations about staying safe online and to encourage children to speak to you if they come across something worrying online".

"Talk to your child about the importance of creating a safe online environment, including keeping any log-in details and passwords safe".

“If they feel worried about content they have found or contact that has been made with them, encourage them to tell someone”.

Focus on TikTok



TIKTOK FAMILY SAFETY MODE

13+

WHAT IS TIKTOK?

A social media app, used mainly for creating music and dance videos. The app can also be used for users to create/participate in viral challenges.

WHAT IS FAMILY SAFETY MODE?

A new feature, allowing Parents/Carers to connect their own TikTok account with their teen's TikTok account, this allows Parents/Carers to have remote control over certain safety features.

ARE THE FEATURES EXCLUSIVE TO FAMILY SAFETY MODE?

No, these safety features are already available in the app for TikTok users to set up themselves.

WHAT ARE THE SAFETY FEATURES?

SCREEN TIME MANAGEMENT
Parents/Carers can limit the amount of time their teen spends on the TikTok app.

DIRECT MESSAGES
Parents/Carers can select which users can message their teen, or turn off direct messaging completely.

RESTRICTED MODE
Parents/Carers can limit the appearance of inappropriate content on the app.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

PRIVATE PROFILE
Set your teen's profile to private so only people they know can interact with their videos.

KEEP TALKING
Having a regular conversation as well as setting up safety features is vital in keeping children and young people safe online.

TikTok's minimum age requirement

13 is the minimum age according to TikTok's Terms and Conditions. However, the Google Play Store marks it as requiring Parental Guidance. Additionally, the Apple Play Store says it's for 12+.

TikTok offers built-in parental controls called "Family Pairing" to help parents manage their child's account, including screen time limits, restricted mode, and direct message settings. Parents can also set accounts to private and filter comments to ensure a safer experience for their children.

Guidance from Safer Internet Centre

To ensure online safety for your children, involve them in open conversations about the internet, utilise parental controls and filters, and model safe online habits. Encourage them to communicate openly about their online experiences and to report on any concerning situations.

1. Establish Clear Expectations and Rules:

- Set limits: Define appropriate screen time and online activities for your child.
- Discuss online interactions: Have open conversations about who they communicate with online and what they share.
- Create a family agreement: Work together to establish ground rules for internet use.
- Supervise and monitor: Pay attention to your child's online activity, especially for younger children.

Useful links for Parents/Carers

Autumn Edition 2024

<https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/secondary/>

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/know-it-all-secondary-toolkits/>

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/>

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/child-abuse-and-harm/keeping-children-safe-online/how-to-talk-children-safe-online>