Welcome to the May 2023 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents

Access to advice/help for parents and carers

With the half-term break almost here, the SCOMIS Online Safety newsletter reminds and signposts parents/ carers to organisations where they can find advice and/or help with Online Safety Issues.

Social Media Checklists are available from South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL) booklets can be download to help set up profiles for:

Facebook
Twitter
Instagram
Snapchat
Roblox
TikTok
Yubo

Social Media Checklists

Learn how to:
> **Stay safe**
> **Set up parental controls**
> **How to share with select followers**
> **Block users**
> **Report users**
> **How to use 'Friends' lists**
> **How to stay in control**

Access the SWGfL's checklist for **Netflix** and learn how to:
> **How to set up children's accounts**
> **How to add maturity ratings**
> **How to block shows**
> **How to lock profiles**
> **How to turn autoplay on and off**

NSPCC— Find out how to keep children Safe Online with help fromt he NSPCC's guides, including:
Reporting Online Safety Concerns
Online Safety Guides
Resources for children with SEND
Internet Connected Devices
Childnet.com Help, advice and resources for parents/carers including:
Social media
Online bullying

Help and advice for 4-11 year olds
• What to do if someone is mean to your child online
• How much time should you spend online
Help and advice for 11-18 year olds
• Gaming
• Social media
• Fake news
• Video Calls
Parent's and carers Toolkit
3 resources offering practical tips and advice on different aspects of keeping your child safe online. Download the toolkit **here**

Don't forget! Support for Grandparents

*The **UK Safer Internet Centre** has published a resource to support grandparents with online safety. The guidance includes:*
• how to respond if something goes wrong
• How to talk to your grandchild about their online life?
• Where to go for help or to report something worrying or inappropriate?   Find out more **here**

Internet Connected Devices

Internet connected devices can send and receive data, respond to voice commands and be controlled remotely using a smartphone app.
Do you know the risks of using Internet connected devices?

Did you know that if Internet connected devices are not set up properly some of the risks include:

• other people might be able to access the device and content without you knowing such as a child's location

• you may not be able to see that someone's connected to your device, but sometimes developers or hackers can see your content or listen in to your conversations

• baby monitors, children's tablets, remote-control drone toys, can be hacked and used by people outside of your home

• Internet connected devices can collect personal data, including audio and visual data

Internet connected devices include:

• smart speakers, such as Google Home and Amazon Echo
• wearables, such as Fitbit and Apple Watch
• smart meters measuring household energy consumption
• toys with voice or image recognition
• robots, drones and other mechanical toys
• smart TVs
• smart appliances
• smart doorbells

For advice on setting up Internet connected devices and how to keep you and your child safe visit the NSPCC's site:
Internet connected devices | NSPCC

WhatsApp

***CommonSense Media's** review:*

Parents need to know that WhatsApp Messenger lets users start video calls, send text messages, videos, photos, and audio messages to one or many people with no message limits or fees.
Privacy and security can be customized in settings including the ability to turn off location sharing. Users also have the ability to send disappearing photos, videos, and GIFs through the Status feature, which is similar to features on Instagram and Snapchat. Read the developer's privacy policy for details on how information is collected, used, and shared.
*NB. Recommended Age: 13 CommonSense = Age 14+
Read review in full **here***

Where to get help

Visit the **UK Safer Internet Centre's** website to access details and links for a number of organisations that can help with:
• Reporting Criminal Content Online and much more!

Need Help in the holidays?

Remember FREE advice is just a phone call away from NSPCC helpline:
0808 800 5002
Childline: 0800 1111

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