



**CLOVER HILL
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

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Working together to keep our children safe... ONLINE

At Clover Hill Primary School, we recognise we live in a digital world and that technology is constantly evolving. We strive to ensure that our children are confident and competent when using the internet but most of all, we strive to keep them safe. We do this through specific teaching in both our Computing and PSHRE curriculum, through our everyday practise within the classrooms and through special visitors (NSPCC) and special events such as Internet Safety Week.

What are the issues?

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. However, the internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge. You may sometimes feel that your children have better technical skills than you do, however children and young people still need advice and protection when it comes to managing their lives online. Issues that your child may encounter on the internet will vary depending on their age and online activities.

We have grouped potential online risks into **4 categories**.

Conduct:

Children may be at risk because of their own behaviour, for example, by sharing too much information

Children need to be aware of the impact that their online activity can have on both themselves and other people, and the digital footprint that they create on the internet. It's easy to feel anonymous online and it's important that children are aware of who can view, and potentially share, the information that they may have posted.

When using the internet, it's important to keep personal information safe and not share it with strangers. Discuss with your child the importance of reporting inappropriate

	conversations, messages, images and behaviours and how this can be done.
Content: Age-inappropriate or unreliable content can be available to children.	Some online content is not suitable for children and may be hurtful or harmful. This is true for content accessed and viewed via social networks, online games, blogs and websites. It's important for children to consider the reliability of online material and be aware that it might not be true or written with a bias. Children may need your help as they begin to assess content in this way. There can be legal consequences for using or downloading copyrighted content, without seeking the author's permission.
Online Games & PEGI Ratings	
Online and Playstation/X-BOX/Nintendo games all come with a PEGI rating. PEGI ratings should be used to decide if a game is appropriate for the age of a child. Games such as GTA (Grand Theft Auto) have a PEGI rating of 18 as they have extreme violent and sexual content; it is not 'just a driving game' as some parents may think. Parental controls can be used to filter online content and monitor online usage. Does your child's devices have these set?	
<u>Did you know the age restrictions for these apps?</u> 	
Contact: Children can be contacted by bullies or people who groom or seek to abuse them.	It is important for children to realise that new friends made online may not be who they say they are and that once a friend is added to an online account, you may be sharing your personal information with them. (Parents- please look at the video link: Where is Klaus – Klick Safe)

	Regularly reviewing friends lists and removing unwanted contacts is a useful step. Privacy settings online may also allow you to customise the information that each friend is able to access. If you have concerns that your child is, or has been, the subject of inappropriate sexual contact or approach by another person, it's vital that you report it to the police via the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (www.ceop.police.uk). If your child is the victim of cyberbullying, this can also be reported online and offline. Reinforce with your child the importance of telling a trusted adult straight away if someone is bullying them or making them feel uncomfortable, or if one of their friends is being bullied online.
Commercialism: Young people can be unaware of hidden costs and advertising in apps, games and websites.	Young people's privacy and enjoyment online can sometimes be affected by advertising and marketing schemes, which can also mean inadvertently spending money online, for example within applications. Encourage your children to keep their personal information private, learn how to block both pop ups and spam emails, turn off in-app purchasing on devices where possible, and use a family email address when filling in online forms.
<u>Have a conversation...</u> It is really important to chat with your children on an ongoing basis about staying safe online. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help.	
• Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online. • Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share? • Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.	

- Encourage them to help someone! Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
- Think about how you each use the internet. What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

Resources to help keep your family safe online:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/resources-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>