

Summer 2021 Online Safety Newsletter

This Summer at Ravenshall we are continuing to look at ways to raise the profile of Online Safety in lessons and around school. Students have been learning how to keep themselves and their private information secure.



WhatsApp

Our ICT KS4 class have been looking at the pros and cons of apps such as Youtube and Whatsapp and this newsletter is designed to give you tips as to what to do to keep your child safe when using social media at home.

Being active on social media is a fantastic way for students to learn communication skills, build friendships and keep in touch with others. However, many of our students will access social media on their phones as well as on computers. This means they can send large numbers of messages to other students at the end of the school day and sometimes at night.



It is important to remind your child to consider the content of any messages they are sending to others before they send them.

Bullying or sending inappropriate messages can have a devastating impact on children, particularly if this is brought into school the next day.

At Ravenshall, we believe it is very important to remind children to take a break and restrict the amount of time they spend online. In addition to this please ensure that yourself and your child are aware how to block another user if necessary. The NSPCC site has more information on this if you need it.

[Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#)

If you are concerned about online bullying or the amount of time your child is spending on social media, please speak to your child about this. You can also contact school at any point to raise your concerns or encourage your child to talk to a teacher.

ChildLaw*advice* Information

Sexting

Finally, please also remind your child to take care when sending photos or sharing them online. Too often images can end up in the wrong hands and can make children vulnerable to online predators and bullying.

Trading nudes or 'sexting' is a term for when a child may be encouraged or forced to send a sexually explicit message of themselves to another person or group.

It is important to have an honest conversation with your child so that they are aware of the risks of this and so that this can be avoided in the future.



Tips for parents

- Discuss with your child the consequences of sexting.
- Monitor your child's online presence, especially social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.
- Explain that the images can land in the wrong hands, and warn them against online predators.
- Encourage your child to open up about receiving or sending provocative images without your supervision.
- Remind your child that there are essential and personal information that they should never share online such as address, photos and video footage.
- Set clear rules about what they can and cannot do with their electronic devices.