

Online Safety Newsletter

What you need to know about children staying safe online

At Northwood, the wellbeing of our children is always our top priority. In today's society, children interact with technologies such as mobile phones, games consoles and the internet on a daily basis and although this can provide our children with fantastic opportunities for the exchange of ideas, social interaction and enhanced learning, it can also pose threats to their safety and happiness. With this in mind we just wanted to summarise some of the main ways in which our children interact online and the risks associated with these. You can read more information and full guides with tips on how to stay safe online and mitigate the risks at www.northwoodprimary.com/esafety.



Snapchat

Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allow users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. This app brings with it inherent risks such as sharing personal information and user location; communicating with strangers; access to inappropriate content, and excessive use. It is also worth noting that Snapchat has an age restriction of 13 and above.

Group Chats

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. These groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for communication and to coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed. It is really beneficial to monitor your children's group chats to support their well-being.



TikTok

TikTok is an increasingly popular social media app that lets users create, share and watch short videos. As well as having an age restriction for its users as 13+, this popular application has potential pitfall. Age inappropriate content; dangerous challenges, and communication with strangers are amongst the main risks to children from this massively popular platform.

Online Gaming

The popularity of online gaming with children has exploded in recent decades and shows no sign of slowing down. In addition to the actual content of the games that our children play, it's also vital to be aware of other potential risks such as cyber-bullying; excessive in-game purchases; falling victim to scams, and communication with strangers. Many of the online games are played by children, teenagers adults from across the globe so be mindful of who your child is online gaming with.

