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## Online Safety during school closures

In these uncertain times we will all be relying heavily on the internet for both entertainment and work. It is therefore important everyone is safe from the many dangers and pitfalls.

While school is closed, here's what you can do, to keep your child safe while they are learning, staying in touch with family and friends, and having fun online: -

1. **Explore together:** Ask your child to show you their favourite websites and apps and what they do on them. Listen, show interest and encourage them to teach you the basics of the site or app.
2. **Remind them:** It is important to take regular breaks from their work and take in food and non-fizzy drinks. This will help with concentration and will focus their minds when they begin to work again.
3. **Chat about online safety little and often:** Young people are likely to want to explore new apps and websites, whether that's for learning or for fun. Take this opportunity to talk to them about how to stay safe on these new services, and in general. Ask if anything ever worries them while they're online. Make sure they know that if they ever feel worried, they can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust.
4. **Help your child identify trusted adults who can help them if they are worried:** This includes you and other adults at home, as well as adults from wider family, school or other support services who they are able to contact at this time. Encourage them to draw a picture or write a list of their trusted adults.
5. **Be non-judgemental:** Explain that you would never blame them for anything that might happen online, and you will always give them calm, loving support.
6. **Talk about how their online actions can affect others:** If your child is engaging with others online, remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo/video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.
7. **Parental controls:** Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet enabled device in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website.

*"In Christ we flourish"*

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8. **Linked family phones:** There are many Apps you can download that allow you to track your child's social media and see what apps they are using and when. One way you can do this for free is using Google's family link. <https://families.google.com/familylink/>
9. **Different platforms to maintain social contact:** Social media is currently one place we can stay in touch with friends and family over chat, meet new people with similar interests, and share photos and videos. Using these platforms appropriately is a concern. As a parent, there's plenty you can do to ensure your children's experience is both safe and fun. A starting point would be for you to look at the hub of advice on the InternetMatters website:  
<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/>
10. **Direct your child to age appropriate information about relationships and sex:** It's natural for young people to start exploring their sexual feelings online and adolescents are more inclined to take risks. It's important to understand this and to talk to your child in a positive way. Thinkuknow, Brook, The Mix and Childline all provide age appropriate information about relationships and sex that you can signpost your child to.

The above information is a summary of the recommendations given by CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command) – Part of the NCA (National Crime Agency).

#### **Support your child with Thinkuknow websites**

The age appropriate Thinkuknow websites are a great way to start and continue chats about online safety.

- 11-13s Thinkuknow website – [https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11\\_13/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_13/)
- 14+ Thinkuknow website – [https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14\\_plus/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus/)

The Thinkuknow website provides open and honest guidance for young people on friends, relationships and the internet, covering topics like dealing with pressure; consent; and getting support when you're worried.

You'll find lots more advice on keeping your child safe online at [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents). If you're worried that a child or young person is at risk of harm online, you should call the police. Young people can make a report to CEOP at <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>.

#### **Other Online Safety Resources**

Parent Info – Expert information for parents about building their child's resilience both online and off. Produced by NCA-CEOP and Parent Zone. This free service can be embedded on to your child's school website. [www.parentinfo.org](http://www.parentinfo.org)

Brook – Information and advice for young people on sexual health and wellbeing, including staying safe online. <https://www.brook.org.uk>

The Mix – Support service for young people with information and advice on sex and relationships.  
<https://www.themix.org.uk>

Internet Matters – A useful tool showing how to set parental controls across a range of devices and websites. <http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide/>



NSPCC Net Aware – Provides reviews and guidance on the most popular social networks, apps and games that children use. <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Childnet – Information and advice for parents and carers on supporting people online.  
<https://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online>

**CEOP social media:**

For up to date information and advice:

- **@CEOPUK** on Twitter
- **ClickCEOP** on Facebook



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