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Newsletter 19

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# Believe and Achieve

As usual, we will be using the month of February as a time to focus and remind pupils about keeping themselves safe when they are on the internet. As you will be aware, the world of technology continues to develop at an incredible pace and as educators we need to respond to the challenges that new technology brings.

Below are just two areas where you can help keep your children safe. This information has been taken from: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) where more information can be found.



## GAMING

Online gaming is hugely popular with children and young people. Annual research conducted by OFCOM shows that gaming is still one of the top activities enjoyed online by 5–16 year olds, with many of them gaming on mobile phones, games consoles, tablets or computers.

### Age Ratings

Games, just like films, have age ratings which are regulated by PEGI. These show the age that young people need to be in order to legally buy a game in the UK. PEGI have also created a set of content descriptors which show what content will be seen in the game and give an indication to why it received its rating.

### Who are they talking to?

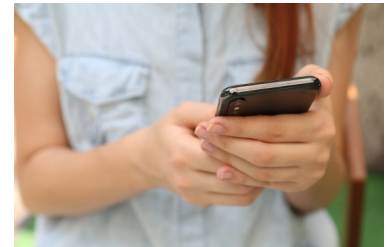
Many games have a chat feature which allows gamers to communicate with other players. On some games this is an open chat box where comments can be typed, whilst others may only allow a gamer to select from set phrases. Chat within games can happen publicly, so that other players can see it and interact, or privately in the form of a personal message. Many games also allow you to chat verbally via a wearable headset

### Discuss how to report or block unkind message

Online bullying can happen in games as well as on social media or messaging apps. It could be through unkind comments or messages, or by targeting other players within in a game. Most games have reporting and blocking features which can be used to support a young person who is being bullied online



## CYBERFLASHING



“**Cyberflashing**” is where somebody digitally sends sexual images or pornography to an unsuspecting person. Due to the nature of channels used to send these images, the victim will not know they have been cyberflashed until they have actively opened the notification or gone into the app.

**AirDrop** is a file and image sharing app, bespoke for Apple devices, which enables users to drop content for nearby devices to accept or reject. Cyberflashing most commonly occurs using Apple AirDrop, as strangers can send images to a victim’s phone without having their details saved. Cyberflashing can also occur through **file sharing apps** and **social media**, especially if the perpetrator has the victim’s details

### **Discuss boundaries and encourage open communication**

Tell your child that their boundaries are valid and that if anything breaks those boundaries – whether strangers inside or outside of school; or even close friends or partners – then they should speak to you or a trusted adult about it straight away. Make sure that they know you will support them without judgement no matter what happens.

### **Check your child’s AirDrop settings**

If your child has an iPhone, check their AirDrop settings with them (Settings > General > AirDrop) and, if necessary, take a look at their privacy settings. The default is set to “Everyone”, meaning anyone nearby can send unsolicited photos straight to your child’s phone. We recommend switching to “Contacts Only” so that only friends can send photos, or even “Receiving Off” if you and your child decide this is the safest option for them

### **Establish safety features of other apps**

Cyberflashing still occurs through social media and file sharing apps when privacy and safety features have not been enabled. Look through your child’s apps with them and set privacy settings to “friends only”; be selective about who can follow them or they can follow.



Often the first sign of Spring being on its way is when the first shoots of our crocuses and daffodils start to appear. These were all carefully planted by the children.

You might not know that if you look carefully, outside the Year Two classes the daffodils spell Wembrook.

Can parents be wary of where they walk so that the children’s hard planting is not affected. Can parents also keep a close eye on younger children who can be tempted to pick them!

Thank you.



How many homework’s have you supported your child with this half- term?