

## **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS:**

### **Inappropriate Content Online Advice for Parents**

Over the last 12 months we have seen an increase in the number of schools reporting that students, while at home, have accessed content which is not always appropriate, some of which has been quite scary or upsetting. While there is no perfect way to eliminate this risk, we feel that there are things parents and carers can do to support their children online, reduce the risk or manage it after the fact. Here are some of the practical steps parents and carers can follow:

- Contact their Internet Service Provider (ISP): Companies that provide broadband such as BT, Sky and Virgin, offer free protection for parents and carers. They can filter your internet connection directly, without having to install anything. Guide on how to use this can be found here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>
- YouTube is a fantastic resource, especially when home schooling, but not all the content is appropriate for children and not all YouTube channels are made for young audiences. YouTube has an app just for children – YouTube Kids – but many people don't realise that the main YouTube app has a restricted mode. We have created a quick guide attached to show how to activate this.
- Games consoles have features that can limit what games they can play based on the age ratings, and can even turn off certain features to allow gaming to be a little safer. To learn more about these features visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>
- Games are also rated based on the content, not how difficult they are. 18 rated games can have very graphic violence, adult language and themes, sexual content and horror elements. Learn a bit more about appropriate games by visiting <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/> or visit this site for more about game ratings <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/pegi-games-ratings-explained>

It's important to remember that no filters or controls are 100% effective so make sure your child knows that they can, and should, talk to someone if they see or hear anything upsetting online so we can offer them some reassurance. This information from Thinkuknow might be useful <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Im-worried-my-primary-aged-child-might-see-something-inappropriate-online/>

#### **Parent's guide to Online Safety Session by Dan Hawbrook:**

We recently ran a live stream on YouTube for parents around online safety and keeping their children safe this can be viewed here at parent's leisure:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrWJte5NAzw&t=127s>

Dan looks at the positive sides of the internet, negative parts, popular apps what they are and how to keep your children safe on them. Techniques used in grooming, sending nudes and agencies that can offer support and help. It is worth a watch for all parents any feedback they have is gratefully received also.