

# Gentleshaw Primary Academy

## Safeguarding Update Autumn Term 2, 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our second safeguarding newsletter.

This half terms newsletter is focussed upon online safety and contains tips and advice to keep your children safe online.

With Christmas around the corner, a popular item cropping up on many children's Christmas list may be an electronic device such as a games console. It is essential that these devices are set up correctly and are monitored closely to ensure our children are kept safe whilst playing, particularly if they interact with online platforms or gaming.

### WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD

If you are worried about a child's safety please do not hesitate to contact any of the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

The following members of staff are Designated Safeguarding Leads for Gentleshaw Primary Academy:

- Miss Saunders (DSL)
- Mrs Armiger
- Mrs Goodsir

They can be contacted via the school office, or by telephone.

Safeguarding Governor: Mrs S Stoddart

You can read our Child Protection & Safeguarding policy by clicking [here](#).

### The physical world translates to the digital world

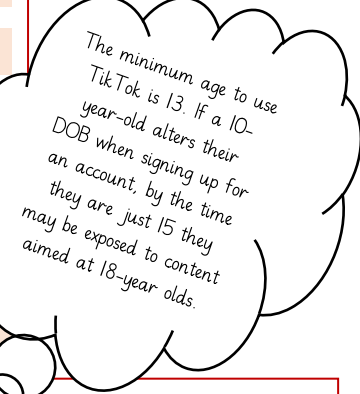
If you wouldn't allow your child to talk to a stranger in the park, why would you allow them to talk to a stranger while online gaming?

#### Tips:

Show an interest and engage with what games they play

Ask questions

AS YOU WOULD IF THEY'D BEEN OUT OR AT A FRIENDS HOUSE



The minimum age to use TikTok is 13. If a 10-year-old alters their DOB when signing up for an account, by the time they are just 15 they may be exposed to content aimed at 18-year olds.

### Did you know?

You may have heard of games/platforms such as Roblox, Minecraft, TikTok and Instagram. And you may have a child that uses these for social purposes including online gaming. Whilst they have not been set up to cause harm, our children are vulnerable and to a lot of young people the digital world is very important to them. Many children may find praise or validation through these apps/games/sites including getting 'likes' or views and interacting with strangers online. Remember, these platforms are targeted by cyber criminals.

Although many of these platforms have privacy settings that can be configured to keep children safe, **did you know** that when the platform/app/game updates the settings can reset. Always check them after an update.

# PEGI

Since 2003 games have been age rated under the Pan-European Game Information (PEGI) system which operates in the UK and over 30 other countries of Europe, in addition, where a game showed realistic scenes of gross violence or sexual activity the game had to be legally classified and received one or other of the BBFC classification certificates given for videos/DVDs.

The PEGI system has been effectively incorporated into UK law and video games will be age rated at one or other of the following age levels; which you will find on video game sleeves. Ratings do not denote the difficulty or the enjoyment level of a game, but that it contains content suitable for a certain age group and above.



The PEGI age ratings will enable parents and carers to make an informed choice when buying a game for their children.

## The Online Safety Bill

The Online Safety Bill is a new set of laws to protect children and adults online. It will make social media companies more responsible for their users' safety on their platforms.

The Bill will make social media companies legally responsible for keeping children and young people safe online.

It will protect children by making social media platforms:

- remove illegal content quickly or prevent it from appearing in the first place. This includes removing content promoting self-harm
- prevent children from accessing harmful and age-inappropriate content
- enforce age limits and age-checking measures
- ensure the risks and dangers posed to children on the largest social media platforms are more transparent, including by publishing risk assessments
- provide parents and children with clear and accessible ways to report problems online when they do arise

The online safety laws will mean social media companies will have to keep underage children off their platforms. Social media companies set the age limits on their platforms and many of them say children under 13 years of age are not allowed, but many younger children have accounts. This will stop. Different technologies can be used to check people's ages online. These are called age assurance technologies. The new laws mean social media companies will have to say what technology they are using, if any, and show they are enforcing their age limits.

For more information visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/a-guide-to-the-online-safety-bill>

# 16 Apps Parents Should Know About



ATTORNEY GENERAL  
**LESLIE RUTLEDGE**  
ARKANSASAG.GOV

**TIKTOK**



TIKTOK is a popular app among kids that is used to create and share short videos with limited privacy controls. Users are vulnerable to explicit content and cyberbullying.

**SNAPCHAT**



SNAPCHAT is a photo & video sharing app that promises users their photo or video will disappear even though it doesn't. Snapchat stories allow users to view content for up to 24 hours and share their location.

**YUBO**



YUBO is a social media app that allows users as young as 13 to create a profile, share their location, view other users' profiles in their area and view livestreams. Substance use, profanity, racial slurs and scantily clad people are common.

**TUMBLR**



TUMBLR is a blogging app and website that allows users as young as 13 to create an account. There are very few privacy settings and pornography is easy to find. Most posts are public and can't be made private. This app was removed from the Apple App Store in '18.

**DISCORD**



DISCORD is a voice and text chat tool that allows gamers to communicate in real time. Users can chat, add friends, one-on-one or in larger groups. This app discusses content geared towards adults, but allows users as young as 13.

**YOUTUBE**



YOUTUBE is a video sharing app that may not be age appropriate for kids. Inappropriate content can be found using innocent search terms, but with parental controls this can be avoided.

**WHISPER**



WHISPER is a social network that allows users to share secrets anonymously and it reveals the users' location so strangers can meet.

**CALCULATOR%**



CALCULATOR% is one of several "vault" style apps that appears to be a harmless app, but is used to hide photos, videos, files and even browser history.

**WHATSAAPP**



WHATSAAPP is a popular messaging app allowing users to text, send photos, make calls and leave voicemails worldwide.

**MONKEY**



MONKEY is an app that allows users as young as 12 to chat with people all over the world during a brief introductory call, then users are given the chance to add each other on SNAPCHAT.

**CHATOUS**



CHATOUS is a messaging app that allows users to chat and share images. This app makes it easy for predators to engage in age-inappropriate conversations with potential victims.

**HOUSE PARTY**



HOUSE PARTY is a group video chat app that allows users to communicate via live video chats and texts. There is no screening and the video is live. Users can also communicate with people they don't know.

**LIVE.ME**



LIVE.ME allows users to livestream videos using geo-location to share the videos so other users can find the broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn "coins" to "pay" minors for photos.

**BUMBLE**



BUMBLE is a popular dating app that requires women to make the first contact. It is common for minors to use this app and falsify their age.

**TINDER**



TINDER is a dating app that allows users to "swipe right" to like someone and "swipe left" to pass. Users can falsify their age, share photos, messages, and meet.

**GRINDR**



GRINDR is a dating app for LGBT adults, not children. The app gives users options to chat, share photos and meet with people based on a smartphone's GPS location.

# HOW TO KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE ON THE INTERNET



**tutor  
doctor**  
How learning hits home.



Be aware of what your kids are looking at online. Even child friendly sites can be hacked.



Follow your child on any social media platform so you can see what they are exposed to.



Get to know the social media platforms and what they are mainly used for.



Teach your children not to share any personal information or photos online at any time.



Know what sites your kids are on and sit with them when they are online to get a feel for the content.



Make them aware of cyber bullying and let them know to always come to you if someone is not nice to them on social media.



Regulate the amount of time kids are online outside of school requirements.



Have all online activity take place in a common area of the home where others are present.



Remember it is still important to be aware of your child's online activity when they become a teenager.



Apply parental controls where possible, but don't trust that they will catch all inappropriate content.

Check your child's browser history to see what sites they visit.



Ensure they never reply to a message or email from a stranger or upload any photos of people/your home.

