

Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However it's important we all consider how we can support children's online safety. Here's some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safer:

Sharing pictures

Using devices like phones and tablets to share pictures and videos can be a great way for children to have fun and stay in touch with friends and family. It's really important your child knows what's ok to share online and what they should check with you first.

Read [younger children sharing pictures or videos online](#) for more information on the risks and how to support safer sharing.

Watching videos

Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them.

[YouTube Kids](#) is a safer way for children to explore their interests. You can find more information about this on [YouTube: what parents need to know](#).

Remember, primary-age children should be supervised at all times when online.

More information?

We will publish a newsletter for Online Safety every half term.

Between times we will send you a link to the latest top tips on our Online Safety Page on the school website. Please let us know via your class email or ict@st-josephs-jun.Croydon.sch.uk if you need any support or have specific concerns.

Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online

Parental controls: Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so this shouldn't replace the support and guidance you give your child to help keep them safer. For more information and step by step instructions on setting up parental controls, visit [Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides - Internet Matters](#).

Supervise their online activity: Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as the living room or kitchen, where an adult is able to supervise. Primary-age children should not access the internet in private spaces alone, such as in a bedroom or bathroom.

Explore together and chat little and often: Ask your child to show you their favourite apps, games and sites and encourage them to teach you how to use these. Ask them if anything ever worries them online. Make sure they know they won't be in trouble and can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried, sad or scared.

Watching videos

From animals doing funny things, to slime-making and game-tutorials, the internet has lots of fun videos for children to enjoy. But the amount and availability of content online means that children may see something inappropriate.

To understand what type of content might not be suitable and advice on how to help your child watch safely, watch this short [video guide](#).

The internet is a public and open space where anyone can post and share content. This can be fun and entertaining for children, but it does mean your child may see something that is intended for adults.

Find out what to do if [you're worried your child might see something inappropriate online](#) or what to do [if they already have](#).

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Sharing information, pictures and videos

It's harder to stay connected with our friends and family right now, so you may be sharing more images and videos of our children online via social media. But before you do, there are some important things to consider.

Read [sharing pictures of your children](#) for info on how to protect your younger, or older child whilst staying social.

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Read [younger children sharing pictures or videos online](#) for more information on the risks and how to support safer sharing.

Personal information is any information that can be used to identify your child. Sharing personal information online is easy and sometimes children, like adults, might share more online than they would offline, which can be risky.

Read [your child's personal information and how to protect it online](#) for information and advice.