

## Keeping Safe on line at Christmas – December 2019



As Christmas is getting closer, children and young people all over the country will be writing lists to Santa or giving hints about what they would like under the tree. Technology is now a very popular item on many children's lists with tablets, smartphones, game consoles and smart watches likely to be asked for this year. All of these devices are fun and engage children in a stimulating interactive environment. Used appropriately, they can bring enormous benefits to learning but used inappropriately they can be a risk to children. All adults, in school and at home, have a responsibility to support children to make the right choices when online and this is an appropriate time to point out some simple measures that can be applied at home.

1. Consider locating your computer or mobile devices in a family area where children's online activity can be monitored or supervised.
2. Talk to your child and ask them to show or even teach you how they use the internet and learn about websites or tools they like to use and why.
3. Make sure your child knows it's important that they tell an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.
4. Remind children that they should use the same caution online as they would in the real world. Tell them they should never go to meet someone they have only spoken to online.
5. Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to block unsuitable content or contact.
6. Familiarise yourself with the age limits of social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, ooVoo, Instagram etc. There's an age limit in place for a reason, if you decide to allow your children on to these sites make sure you know how they can protect themselves while using these sites – for example knowing how to set appropriate privacy settings.

### **Websites to visit for more information**

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) – Visit the 'Parent/ Carer' section and use the 'Click CEOP' button to seek advice and report online abuse.

[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com) – Visit the 'Know It All' Section for an interactive guide about online safety.

[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org) – Free up to date Security advice including using complex passwords, privacy settings, safe searching and social networking

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/> - A useful hub for parents which explains the risks and the benefits, along with some resources that parents can use

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/> - As well as devices, parents also need advice according to the age of their children. Again, Internet Matters has this covered for children 0-5, 6-10, 11-13 and 14+

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/> - Advice on how to set controls on devices

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/> - Gaming is likely to be high on the agenda for many children this holiday period. CEOP have a nice, simple guide for parents