

23rd March 2020

*Our reference: DJN/CB**

Dear Families,

Re: Thinkuknow: keeping your child safe online while they are off school

Please find attached guidelines to help support parents. It outlines 8 simple steps to keep your child safe online at this time when there will be an increase in on line activity by children.

Best regards

D Jackson

Mr D Jackson
Head of Computer Science

Thinkuknow: keeping your child safe online while they are off school

Thinkuknow is the national online safety education programme from CEOP, the online child protection command of the National Crime Agency.

Thinkuknow helps parents, carers, teachers and others keep children safe from sexual abuse, offering learning activities, advice and support for children and young people aged 4-18 and their families.

While school is closed, here's what you can do to keep your child stay safe while they are learning, staying in touch with family and friends, and having fun online.

8 steps to keep your child safe online this month

- 1. Explore together:** Ask your child to show you their favourite websites and apps and what they do on them. Listen, show interest and encourage them to teach you the basics of the site or app.
- 2. Chat about online safety little and often:** Young people are likely to want to explore new apps and websites this month, whether that's for learning or for fun. Take this opportunity to talk to them about how to stay safe on these new services, and in general. Ask if anything ever worries them while they're online. Make sure they know that if they ever feel worried, they can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust.
- 3. Help your child identify trusted adults who can help them if they are worried:** This includes you and other adults at home, as well as adults from wider family, school or other support services who they are able to contact at this time. Encourage them to draw a picture or write a list of their trusted adults.
- 4. Be non-judgemental:** Explain that you would never blame them for anything that might happen online, and you will always give them calm, loving support.
- 5. Talk about how their online actions can affect others:** If your child is engaging with others online, remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo/video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.
- 6. Parental controls:** Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet enabled device in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website.
- 7. Direct your child to age appropriate information about relationships and sex:** It's natural for young people to start exploring their sexual feelings online and adolescents are more inclined to take risks. It's important to understand this and to talk to your child in a positive way. Thinkuknow, Brook, The Mix and Childline all provide age appropriate information about relationships and sex that you can signpost your child to.
- 8. Make sure they know about CEOP:** Young people can report a concern about grooming or sexual abuse to CEOP at www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/ and get support from a specialist Child Protection Advisor.



Support your child with Thinkuknow websites

The age-appropriate Thinkuknow websites are a great way to start and continue chats about online safety.

- **11-13s Thinkuknow website** – https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_13/
- **14+ Thinkuknow website** – https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus/

Our websites provide open and honest guidance for young people on friends, relationships and the internet, covering topics like dealing with pressure; consent; and getting support when you're worried.

You'll find lots more advice on keeping your child safe online at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents.

If you're worried that a child or young person is at risk of harm online, you should call the police. Young people can make a report to CEOP at <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>.

Other recommended resources

Parent Info – Expert information for parents about building their child's resilience both online and off. Produced by NCA-CEOP and Parent Zone. This free service can be embedded on to your child's school website. www.parentinfo.org

Brook – Information and advice for young people on sexual health and wellbeing, including staying safe online. <https://www.brook.org.uk>

The Mix – Support service for young people with information and advice on sex and relationships. <https://www.themix.org.uk>

Internet Matters – A useful tool showing how to set parental controls across a range of devices and websites. <http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide/>

NSPCC Net Aware – Provides reviews and guidance on the most popular social networks, apps and games that children use. <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Childnet – Information and advice for parents and carers on supporting people online. <https://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online>

CEOP social media:

For up to date information and advice:

- **@CEOPUK** on Twitter
- **ClickCEOP** on Facebook

