



# ST. AIDAN'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

EDITION 02

E-Safety Newsletter

June 2019

“70% of 8-17s  
said they have  
seen images and  
videos not  
suitable for their  
age in the last  
year”  
(Safer Internet, 2017)

## Using the E-Safety Toolbox

Educating your children on E-Safety is vital however it is not simply about putting rules in place. It is important that we make the children aware of the dangers and give them some responsibility to keep themselves safe.

Awareness is everything, and only by doing these things will they grow and eventually their turn will come to nurture others. What is important here is to teach the rules, not the do's and don'ts, but the “be aware of..” rules. By doing this they are taught risk assess, and if something didn't feel right walk away or ask somebody responsible.

*NSPCC report findings  
2018 - Our How safe are  
our children?*

*“almost a quarter of  
young people were  
contacted online by an  
adult they did not know”*

*“over 3,000 crimes have  
been recorded by the  
police since the offence of  
communicating indecently  
with a child was  
introduced in England and  
Wales in April 2017.”*

E-safety isn't: filtering and blocking; banning mobile use; constant monitoring; raising awareness; raising awareness; education; risk assessing.

E-Safety is a toolbox, and in any toolbox there are a number of tools, some mentioned above, each of which has a different purpose. Some tools do the same thing albeit in a different way. E-safety is about picking the right tool or tools for the job or situation. But most importantly, e-safety is about helping our children to grow, learn and have fun online..... e-safely!

(E-safety Advisor, Feb 2012)

## Age- Appropriate Apps

**Name: YouTube Kids**

**Age: 4+**

**Web: [www.kids.youtube.com](http://www.kids.youtube.com)**

### What is it?

If you have children, you'll no doubt be aware that YouTube plays a big part in their online lives for the vast majority. It's no surprise that YouTube is so popular, there are millions of videos catering for anything you can imagine, and some things you don't want to imagine! Recently, Google has tried to curb the concern that many parents have in regards to inappropriate content by introducing a new app: YouTube for Kids.

### Risks of YouTube Kids:

Whilst this is a great step forward for younger children, the vast majority of videos are curated by algorithms; in this context, pieces of code that are making parental decisions, not human moderators. There have been numerous reports of inappropriate

content but these do appear to be removed quickly by Google when they are reported (within the app). Frustratingly there are ads, they're not intrusive but given that this app is advertised by Google as 'designed for under 5's' it begs the question - why? (E-safety Advisor, 2016)



# Sharing Personal Information

The internet is an amazing resource which enables children and young people to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways, on a range of devices. However, the internet is always changing, and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge.

Children need to be aware of the impact that their online activity can have on both themselves and other people, and the digital footprint that they create on the internet. It's easy to feel anonymous online and it's important that children are aware of who is able to view, and potentially share, the information that they may have posted. When using the internet, it's important to keep personal information safe and not share it with strangers.

## (Safer Internet)

### What is personal information?

When you post a photo, video or information online, it's worth thinking about the type of information that you may be sharing within this.

Personal information is like a jigsaw puzzle, where each piece of information you share can be added together and once you look at the bigger picture you may actually be sharing more about yourself than you would have wished to. (Childnet International)

### Personal information can include:

- Your full name
- Age or date of birth
- Address
- School name
- Phone number
- Current Location

### How may I be giving this information away?

A lot of personal information may be hidden in photos and videos, this includes:

- School Name: shown by the school uniform worn in pictures
- Home address: shown by house numbers or street names in the background of photos
- Date of birth: either in the background of pictures or via birth announcements and birthdays.

Before posting a photo online check it for any personal information that you may be inadvertently sharing.

Having a discussion with your child about personal information is a great way for you to gain an insight into their understanding of the meaning of personal information. Specifically it allows you to identify where there may be gaps in their knowledge or understanding. From an early age, children get taught at school about personal information both in the real world and the online world so you normally find that they know quite a lot, therefore you could consider having a quiz to see who can guess the most.

Once you've done that, discuss with your child the range of online services that they use, for example do they:

- Use social media?
- Have a YouTube channel?
- Play online games?
- Chat on web forums?

It's highly likely they do at least two of the above (age-dependent) so this has the added advantage of understanding what they get up to, and why.

More often than not children will adopt a username (rather than their real name) to identify them on various online services. This is pretty common and many online services require you to have a separate username to identify you.

For example my username across all social media and other online services is 'e-safety adviser'. Discuss with your children what usernames they have adopted, for example do they use the same username across all the services they use or do they adopt different ones?

Do those usernames reveal personally identifiable information that you're not comfortable with? If you find anything like this get it removed and have a discussion about using names that are appropriate as this would be a specific risk. Do a Google search together on their usernames to see if you find anything.

(E-Saftey Advisor, 2016)