

## Summer Term 2 Newsletter 2026

### *Safeguarding, everyone's responsibility*

**Useful Contacts:**

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### **A message from the Safeguarding Team**

#### **Helping parents build digitally resilient children**

As technology continues to develop, children and young people are spending increasing amounts of time online — socialising, gaming, learning, communicating and exploring the world around them.

The online world offers many positive opportunities. However, it can also expose children to risks that can sometimes feel difficult for parents and carers to keep up with. As part of our ongoing safeguarding work, we want to help families feel informed, supported and confident when navigating these challenges.

Over the coming months and into next academic year, we will be sharing information, guidance and support around some of the key online safety themes affecting children and young people today.

### **Parent Online Safety Sessions – Coming September**

To further support families, we will be launching a series of short online safety sessions for parents and carers from September.

These sessions will provide practical advice, guidance and up-to-date information about the online risks and challenges young people may face, as well as strategies to help parents feel more confident supporting children at home.

Topics will include:

- Social media and group chats
- Gaming and online communication
- Harmful online content
- AI and emerging technology
- Parental controls and practical safety tools
- Building healthy digital habits

Further information about dates, booking and how to access the sessions will be shared in September. Some of the topics that will be covered are included in this [newsletter](#)

### **Understanding Children's Online Lives**

For many young people, there is little distinction between their "online" and "offline" worlds. Social media, gaming, messaging apps and online communities play a significant role in friendships, identity and wellbeing.

We will be helping parents understand:

- The apps and platforms children commonly use
- Group chats, live streaming and online gaming
- Why some platforms can be difficult for children to step away from
- How to build open and supportive conversations at home



### **Recommended Resource for Parents & Carers**

As part of supporting children to stay safe online, we would also like to share the following website with parents and carers: <https://testfiltering.com/>

This site allows families to check whether filtering and safety settings on their home internet and devices are working effectively. It also provides practical guidance around online safety, monitoring, cyber security and digital safeguarding to help parents keep children safer online.

## Harmful Content & Online Influences

Algorithms can sometimes expose young people to harmful or extreme content without them actively searching for it.

Topics we will explore include:

- Misogynistic influencer culture
- Online radicalisation and extremist content
- Self-harm and eating disorder content
- Conspiracy theories and misinformation
- Helping children develop critical thinking online

## Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Emerging Technology

Artificial intelligence is becoming increasingly common in children's daily lives.

We will be helping families understand:

- AI chatbots and companion apps
- Deepfakes and manipulated images
- AI-generated misinformation
- Privacy and data collection
- Safe and responsible use of AI tools

## Social Media, Grooming & Exploitation

Online communication can sometimes expose children to unsafe contact, manipulation or exploitation.

We will be sharing information about:

- Online grooming
- Sextortion and coercion
- Fake profiles and online anonymity
- Location sharing risks
- How children may be pressured into sharing images
- Signs that a child may need support

## Gaming, Gambling & Online Spending

Online gaming is often a positive social activity for children, but there can also be risks linked to communication, spending and online behaviour.

We will be raising awareness around:

- Online chat within games
- Loot boxes and gambling-style features
- Online scams and phishing
- In-game purchases
- Toxic behaviour and harmful language
- Healthy gaming habits

## Practical Strategies for Parents & Carers

One of the strongest protective factors for children online is having trusted adults they can speak to openly.

Simple strategies that can help include:

- Regular conversations about online experiences
- Taking an interest in the apps and games children enjoy
- Agreeing healthy routines and boundaries together
- Keeping devices out of bedrooms overnight where possible
- Using privacy settings and parental controls appropriately
- Encouraging children to speak up if something worries them

## Working Together

Online safety is a shared responsibility between school, families and young people. Our aim is not to create fear around technology, but to help children become safe, resilient and responsible digital citizens.

We look forward to continuing to work together to support our young people both online and offline.