



# Online safety at home:

Parents and Carers Newsletter

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With the majority of young people now learning from home, they will be spending more time online doing their school work, playing games or socialising. 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 help keep young people safer online during this lockdown, and always. Here's some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safer:

## Sharing Information, Sharing Information, Personal Data

If your child enjoys being online and uses social media apps, games and more, it's important you know how to protect their personal information and support them to make safe choices about what they share online.

Read this [parents guide to personal information](#) and [how to protect it](#) for more information to support your child.

## Personal Data

Some of the most popular apps, sites and games are designed to make it easy to share information online. Once information is shared, you can never be sure who has seen it, saved it or shared it.

If your child has shared something online they wish they hadn't – don't panic. Read [my child has shared too much online](#) for advice on how to support them.

## More information?

Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP). Their aim is to protect children and young people from sexual abuse online.

For more information, advice and guidance, visit their [parents website](#) and download their [home activity worksheets](#) for fun, online safety activities to do with your family.

## 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 can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so they shouldn't replace the need for you to support and advise your child using the internet. For more information and step by step instructions on setting up parental controls, visit [Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides - Internet Matters](#).

**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.

**Tell them about Thinkuknow:** Their website provides 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. Visit our [website for 11-13's](#) or our [website for 14+](#) for age appropriate information.