



Safeguarding Newsletter

Feb 2025



ONLINE SAFETY

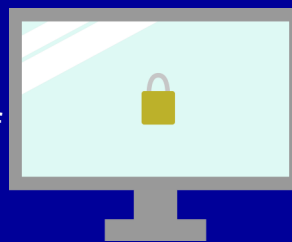
There are many games and films, and you tube shorts that children are exposed to on the internet that are inappropriate for their viewing.

You may have heard your child talk about Squid Game. It is rated 15+ and Season 2 of Netflix's Squid Game is now available and has been rated 15 by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC). You can find out why Squid Game has been rated 15 by visiting the BBFC: <https://www.bbfc.co.uk/release/squid-gameq29sbqvjdglvbjpwwc01mzm3ndg>.

Due to its popularity, Squid Game related

content can be found on numerous other platforms such as YouTube, TikTok and Roblox, so your child may come across this show without even viewing it on Netflix.

Content may range from trailers of the show or content that other people create such as memes and games. The content is often graphic and inappropriate for young children to view, so it is important that we are aware of the content our children are accessing or are inadvertently exposed to.



What can I do?

- **Parental Controls** - Set up appropriate parental controls on your broadband, devices and on individual apps to reduce access to content that is not appropriate for their age.

- **Talk** - Chat to your child about age ratings and why this means certain programmes are not suitable for them to watch.

- **Individual Profiles** - Set up child profiles on any streaming services to ensure your child is only viewing content appropriate to them.

- **Reporting** - Make sure your child knows how to report and block on all platforms that they use.

- **Explore** - Watch and explore things online together so you can see what your child is doing and how to support them. **More information:** It is important to talk to your child regularly about what

they are watching and ensure that they know they should always tell you or another trusted adult if they do see anything upsetting. You can find out more about the type of inappropriate

content your child might come across online here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/inappropriate-content/learnabout-it/>

ONLINE MESSAGING

Young people are very comfortable messaging



online and for some of them it is their preferred method of communication with their friends.

There are many ways in which our children can communicate online, for example via messaging apps such as Snapchat and WhatsApp, social media apps and online games such as FIFA and Fortnite.

Parents and Carers need to understand how and who our children are communicating with to keep them safe online. Please do reinforce the school message that they **MUST** talk to a trusted adult at home or at school should they need to.

What are the risks of online communication?

- Communicating with people they do not know and being added to “groups” they do not choose to be part of

- Bullying and inappropriate chat, this could be with people they think they know but do not know.
- Contact from strangers.
- Contact from adults pretending to be children of a similar age.
- Sharing personal information including images.
- Sextortion - this is a form of extortion where somebody threatens to share a nude/sexual image of a young person.
- Report any concerning activity immediately to the social media provider

How can I mitigate the risks?

- Ensure your child is accessing age appropriate apps/games and that appropriate parental controls are set up.
- Chat to your child about the risks so they are aware of what can happen online.
- Depending on the age of your child, it may be more appropriate for devices to be used in family rooms so you can monitor what they are doing.

Further information is available at

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/Concerned-about-yourchild/Online-contact-and-staying-safe/>

<https://www.brightcanary.io/what-to-do-when-your-child-sendsinappropriate-texts/>



SNAPCHAT



We have included some additional information below about snapchat, as it often the preferred method of communication for young people. Like all forms of technology, young people are much more proficient than we are! There are many benefits to Snapchat and other forms of digital communication but when it is misused it can cause distress for young people.

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time e.g., 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

Key Concerns using Snapchat

There are potential risks to using Snapchat, including:

- the risk of your child

viewing content that is not appropriate for their age.

- location sharing (via Snap Map) (this can be switched off).
- cyberbullying.
- contact from strangers.
- excessive screen time.



FAMILY CENTRE FEATURES



Snapchat's Family Centre is a set of parental controls and includes

tools such as allowing you to:

- see who your child is friends with.
- see who your child has sent messages (not the contents of conversations though), photos or videos to in the last week.
- view a list of group members for groups that your child has been active in.
- restrict content to limit

access.

- report any accounts that you are concerned about.

You can learn more about Family Centre here:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls?lang=en-GB>



Safety tips Please make sure the appropriate privacy

settings are set up on Snapchat, including who can see their location and also ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary:

<https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

More information For more detailed advice and information:

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-we-do/blogs/the-riskssnapchat-poses-to-children>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/socialmedia/snapchat>

HELP MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S ONLINE ACTIVITY



You can use Google Family Link or Apple Family Sharing to help you depending on your **child's device**.

Google Family Link: This is a free parental control app from Google that lets you:

- View activity reports showing how long they spend on each app.
- Approve or block new app downloads.
- Set screen time limits.
- Find their location.

You will need to download an app and then decide appropriate settings. <https://families.google/familylink/>

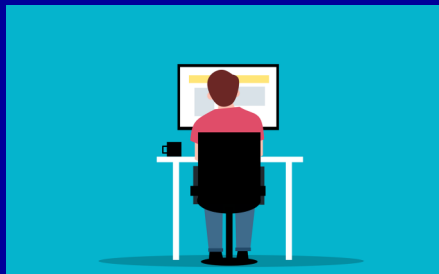
Apple Family Sharing:

You can set up Family Sharing in the settings of your device. Family Sharing allows you to:

- Share Apple subscriptions and purchases from the App Store.
- Approve what children purchase/download.
- Limit screen time.
- Share locations and find devices.

<https://www.apple.com/uk/familysharing/>

Monitoring Apps (paid for)



In addition, there are apps that you can pay for that you may find provides a better solution for you. Whilst we cannot recommend/endorse a

specific product, these are some examples that you could review and test using a free trial:

- **Parentaler:** This app allows you to monitor and control your child's phone activity. It features app blocking, website filtering, screen time control, instant alerts, and location tracking.
- **Norton Family:** <https://uk.norton.com/products/norton-family>
- **Qustodio:** <https://www.qustodio.com/en/>
- **Family Time:** <https://familytime.io/>



Contact Details— Please ensure that we have the correct contact details for you. You can update your contact details in the SIMS parent app. If you do not have the SIMS parent app please contact school enquiry for further information schoolenquiry@stgregoryshigh.com

SAFEGUARDING

DSL
Miss Lavin

Safeguarding Governor
Mr Roger Harrison.

Safeguarding Advice: 01925 444140

Cheshire Constabulary:101

Social Work Teams: 01925 446257

Out of Hours: 01925 443322

ChildLine: 0800 1111