



E-safety:

Protecting your child online

Information for parents

The Risks

- **Forming online friendships with adults who pose a risk to children;**

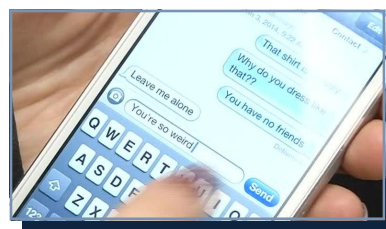
Some adults may use Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to meet children online by pretending to be a child themselves. They may build up a relationship with the child with the intent of sexually abusing them; this is known as 'grooming'. Children may also share personal information or photographs of themselves on social networking sites that allows them to be contacted or located by unsuitable adults. A recent police study found that online groomers have been targeting Minecraft for children under the age of 12, Minecraft gives predators the access to talk to the children and become their virtual friend. In Staffordshire the police dealt with 208 cases of grooming through video games last year.



- **Children form a close relationship to their games console/computer/tablet;**

Children form relationships very easily, especially at a young age, however, this is not confined to people. Children can form relationships with objects, especially ones such as a electronic devices that actively interact with the child. It may seem like an easy solution to sit a child in front of an electronic device at night, but it can seriously effect the connection between you and your child.

- **Cyber bullying;** Chat rooms, mobile phone texts, instant messaging, social networking sites and emails can all be used to bully children by sending offensive or threatening messages or posting mean comments online. Furthermore people can forget how hurtful they are being due to not saying these comments face to face.



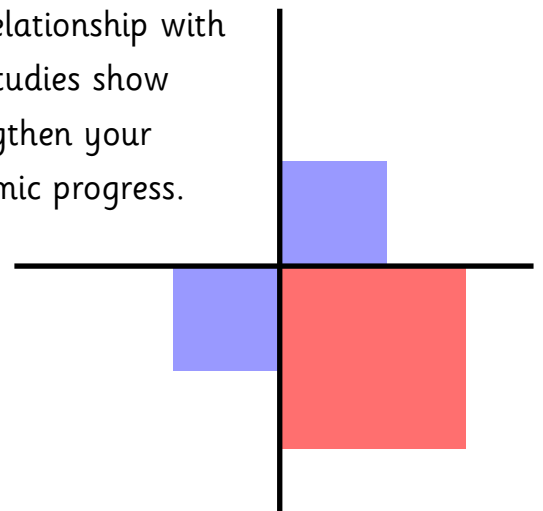
What can you do?

- Let your child know how important it is to tell you about any suspicious contacts or incidents of cyber bullying so you can take action.
- If your child is playing online ensure that they are not communicating with anyone or they are playing their conversation through the TV speakers to know who they are talking to and what they are talking about.

<http://support.xbox.com/en-GB/browse/my-account/manage-account/Child%20accounts>

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/legal/about-ratings-and-parental-controls/>

- No child should have access to any social media sites until they are 13 years old, it is against the law. In order to prevent cyber bullying, deactivate your child's social networking page, it may seem cruel and you will have complaints but it will protect your child from these dangers!
- Do not rely on games, laptops and the TV to occupy your child, so they form a relationship with you and not a piece of hardware. Studies show communicating with your can strengthen your relationship and help in their academic progress.



If there's a problem

Even if you take every precaution, there is still a chance your child may come into contact with unsuitable people or receive offensive images or messages.

Make sure your child knows to tell you about any problems they may have and reassure them that they won't be blamed.

If your child is being bullied...

- Tell your child not to reply.
- Print or save messages and emails as evidence.
- If the bullying is through email, mobile phone or instant messaging, contact the internet or phone service provider and ask them to block all messages from the sender.
- Consider changing your child's mobile number or deleting your child's social networking account (as it is against the law for them to be on some social networking sites).
- If the bully's identity is known and attends New York Primary School, let us know what's happening so we can help deal with it.

If your child is in online contact with an unsuitable adult...

- Keep any messages as evidence.
- Tell your child they must end the online friendship.
- Ensure your child is not on any social networking site until they are of a legal age (see sites regulations), when they do have a social networking site ensure they are safe by setting their privacy level to 'friends only'.
- Report the matter to the police or the Designated Child Protection Officer at New York Primary School.