Safeguarding – Online Safety

October 22nd 2025

Morley Primary Weekly Safeguarding Bulletin

Welcome to our safeguarding bulletin for parents. Each week, we'll share important information to help keep our children safe, informed, and supported.

Theme: Online Safety & Social Media Awareness

With children spending more time online, it's important to understand the risks and how to keep them safe. Social media, gaming platforms, and messaging apps can expose children to cyberbullying, grooming, and inappropriate content.

Children may:

- - Become secretive about their online activity.
- - Spend excessive time on devices, especially at night.
- - Show signs of anxiety or distress after being online.
- - Receive messages or friend requests from unknown people.

Talking to Children About Online Risks

Children often explore the internet with curiosity, but they may not always understand the risks. It's important to have regular, open conversations about what they see and do online. Encourage your child to:

- **Tell** you if something online makes them feel uncomfortable or worried.
- **Avoid** sharing personal information like their full name, address, school, or photos.
- **Understand** that not everyone online is who they say they are.
- **Use** age-appropriate language and examples. For younger children, you might compare online strangers to strangers in real life. For older children, discuss topics like grooming, scams, and misinformation.

Setting Boundaries and Using Parental Controls

- Setting clear boundaries helps children develop healthy online habits. Consider:
- **Screen time limits**: Use built-in tools on devices or apps to manage how long children spend online.
- **Safe zones**: Only allow access to age-appropriate websites, games, and apps.
- **Parental controls**: Most devices and broadband providers offer filters and monitoring tools. These can block inappropriate content and help you track usage.
- Remember, technology is only part of the solution—your involvement and guidance are key.

Age Requirements for Popular Apps

- Many apps have minimum age requirements, often due to data protection laws or content concerns. Here's a quick reference:

App / Platform	Minimum Age Requirement
WhatsApp	13 (UK) / 16 (EU)
TikTok	13
Instagram	13
Snapchat	13
Facebook	13
YouTube (own account)	13
YouTube Kids	Parental setup required
Discord	13
Roblox	No official age limit, but parental controls recommended
Minecraft	No official age limit, but PEGI 7 rating
Fortnite	PEGI 12 rating

Online Safety Glossary for Parents

Term	Meaning
Digital Footprint	The trail of data left behind when someone uses the internet — including posts, searches, and shared content. It can affect reputation and privacy.
Cyberbullying	Bullying that takes place online or through digital devices, such as sending hurtful messages, sharing embarrassing photos, or excluding someone from online groups.
Grooming	When someone builds a relationship with a child online to exploit or abuse them. Groomers often pretend to be someone else and use flattery or gifts.
Phishing	A scam where fake messages or websites trick people into giving away personal information like passwords or bank details.
In-App Purchases	Items or upgrades that can be bought within apps or games. These can be costly and are often tempting for children.

Term	Meaning
Parental Controls	Tools that allow parents to restrict or monitor what children can access online, including websites, apps, and screen time.
PEGI Rating	A European age rating system for video games that helps parents understand the suitability of content.
Privacy Settings	Options within apps or websites that control who can see your child's information, posts, or profile. These should be set to the highest level of privacy.
Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)	An extra layer of security that requires a second form of identification (like a code sent to a phone) to log in.
Reporting Tools	Features in apps or websites that allow users to report inappropriate or harmful content or behaviour.
Content Filtering	Technology that blocks access to inappropriate websites, videos, or images. Often part of parental controls.
Online Reputation	How someone is perceived based on their online activity. This can affect friendships, school, and future opportunities.

The 5Cs of Online Safety

When supporting children online, it helps to consider the 5Cs:

- **Content –** Is what they're viewing appropriate and safe?
- **Contact –** Are they interacting only with people they know and trust?
- **Conduct –** Are they behaving respectfully and responsibly online?
- **Commerce** – Are they protected from scams, ads, and in-app purchases?
- **Critical Thinking –** Are they questioning what they see and spotting misinformation?

This framework helps families talk about online safety in a clear and practical way, encouraging children to make smart choices and seek help when unsure.

Local Derby Online Safety Concerns

In Derbyshire, safeguarding teams have raised concerns about children being contacted via gaming platforms and social media apps. These platforms are often used to initiate contact and build trust before exploitation begins. Parents are encouraged to monitor usage and talk openly with children about their digital lives.

Designated Safeguarding Leads at Morley

If you or your child have any concerns, please speak to one of our safeguarding team:

- - Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Taylor
- - Deputy DSLs: Mrs Taylor, Mrs Richards, Miss Smith

Report a Concern – My Concern Community QR

If you ever have a safeguarding concern, you can report it confidentially using our My Concern Community QR.
🔗 https://www.morley.derbyshire.sch.uk/can-i-talk-to-you-safeguarding-concerns/
Available for parents, carers, and the wider community to help keep our children safe.

Key Contacts for Support with Online Safety

If you're worried about a child, here are some trusted organisations you can contact:

- - NSPCC Online Safety Hub – https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety
- - Safer Derbyshire – https://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/what-we-do/cyber-crime/online-safety-advice-for-parents/online-safety-advice-for-parents.aspx
- - Internet Matters – https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/esafety-leaflets-resources/
- - Derbyshire Constabulary – https://www.derbyshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/online-child-abuse/

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mr Taylor