TLA Online

November 2026 Issue 23

Online Safety Survey - 2026

Every year at TLA we give the KS2 children an online safety survey, asking them about their internet usage, the devices they use and about their online safety knowledge.

Over 63% of TLA children spend more than two hours a day online, this is an increase of 4% from last year. This shows that online safety needs to be a priority both in school and at home.

The survey shows that tablets are still the most popular devices, including iPads, Kindle Fires and other android tablets. All tablets have some form of parental controls that can be used by parents to limit things like screen time, apps and purchases. For more information please visit www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/ where you can find specific advice for every device.

Google's Family Link app is another handy app for parents, it's free and can be used to control all android devices, including; phones, tablets and chromebooks. https://families.google/familylink/

Parental controls are a great way to start a conversation with your child about what they feel their limits should be, as well as giving you the chance to talk to them about their online safety knowledge. The recent survey shows that over 66% of children talk to their parents about what they like to do online and 59% talk about online safety, this is a slight drop from previous years. Only 48% said that parents have set rules for going online, this includes time limits as well as rules for what they can do online. If you need some help starting the conversations please click the link below.
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/



How to make a report

If your child tells or shows you something inappropriate that they have seen online please report it. It could help prevent this from happening to someone else.

The first place it needs reporting is to the APP/ Website/Game it happened on.

If you are worried about online abuse or the way someone has been communicating online let CEOP know. You can report it by visiting www.ceop.police.uk/ or by clicking the button on our website. The website will guide you through how to make a report.

For further advice visit the School's website, visit the Childline website or call 0800 1111

ChildLine 0800 1111

New Devices for Christmas



Over Christmas many children receive gifts that require going online (phones, gaming devices, tablets, etc), CyberSafeKids have released a guide to help. We have compiled a short checklist below to help keep your children as safe as possible whilst using their new devices.

1. Research the device, make sure you have an idea of how your child will be using it. Internet Matters has a useful website which provides helpful information about different devices (smartphones, tablets, games consoles, TVs etc.)

2. Have a look at the device before Christmas day and set up security and privacy settings. If you can't set it up before Christmas ensure you sit with your child and set it up together. Here is a helpful guide.

3. Look into the parental controls, the website below is a guide to setting controls up on any device including: phones, consoles and tablets.
www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/

4. Finally, take time to play on the new device together with your child, talk about what your child is using it for and what they know about staying safe online.

If you are thinking of giving your child a second hand device, Internet Matters has a guide and information on how to do this safely.

Smartphone Safety Advice



Are you looking to get your child a phone or has your child already got a phone that you're not sure you have set up properly?

If so, Internet Matters has lots of information on setting up a smartphone for children as well as a checklist to ensure the device is set up safely.

Here's a helpful checklist of things to consider before giving your child a smartphone.
https://www.waynedenner.com/3-things-parents-wish-they-had-considered-before-giving-their-teen-a-smartphone/

It's really important that the device is set up properly before it's given to the child. Think about privacy and security settings and parental controls. Internet Matters has a helpful guide to setting up Android phones and Apple devices.

Google also has a really useful guide to their app called 'Family Link' which allows parents to control android devices from their own phones.

Apple has recently released new family features. Here's a video explaining what you can do.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHXELsEResE

Mrs S. Tully - Trevithick Learning Academy

Gaming

According to our survey, the most popular games the children play are still Roblox (82%), Minecraft (64%) and Fortnite (52%). All of these games use platforms accessed by both children and adults, which means that it is really important that parental controls are used and that parents are aware of what their children are doing in these games. Internet Matters has guides on all these games for further information.

With all these games there is an opportunity for children to chat to other players, some of which will be strangers. In school we teach children that if they are talking to people they don't know in real life they should never share private information (name, address, birthday etc.), we also advise them to stay in the public chats and to NEVER join a private chat with someone they don't know in real life. For younger children we still encourage them to turn the chat functions off and to not talk to people they don't know in real life.

Children were asked if they play games that are too old for them and 45% said that they did. There are several children that said that they play GTA (Grand Theft Auto), this game is 18+ and is very inappropriate for children, they should not be playing this game on their own or with an adult. Here is an article for parents about what they need to know about the new GTA 6 release:
https://www.breckfoundation.org/post/gta-6-is-coming-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know.

It's important that parents are aware of age ratings of games and apps to ensure children are not exposed to inappropriate content. For more advice about age ratings please visit:
parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings

Ofcom has also released a guide for parents about online gaming.

Devices at Bedtime

We asked the children if they kept any devices in their bedrooms, over 56% of the children said they had a tablet in their room and over 57% had a TV. We then asked the children if they used their devices during the night when they were in bed. Worryingly, 36% of the children asked said they do use their devices whilst in bed at night. This is quite concerning as parents may not be aware of this and it could have a significant impact on children's sleep.

Parents can use parental controls to ensure that children are not using their devices at night, or simply remove the devices from the children's bedrooms before they go to sleep. Here is a guide for choosing and setting up a TV with parental settings.
https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/family-smart-tvs/

Social Media Ban 2027

In the Spring, the UK government will ban social media for under 16s. Alongside this, certain harmful features on other online services like livestreaming and strangers contacting children will be restricted for under 18s. This is being described as a social media ban.

All social media sites including Snapchat, Tik Tok, Instagram and YouTube will be banned for children under 16. We are currently waiting to see how this will be implemented and how successful it will be.

In school we have been talking about what it might look like for them, unsurprisingly the children are most concerned about missing YouTube. Over 87% of our children said that watching videos was their favourite thing to do online.

YouTube Kids will be exempt from the ban. Below is some advice on using and setting up YouTube Kids.

https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-kids-app/

For more advice on making YouTube as safe as possible, please visit:
parentzone.org.uk/article/youtube

Whatsapp will also be exempt from the ban. Please read on for more information about Whatsapp and group chats.

Cyberbullying



November is Anti-bullying Month and so this term's Online Safety lessons have been focused on Cyberbullying. Children have been taught how to identify cyberbullying, what to do if it happens to them or they see it happen to someone else and the difference between banter and bullying.

<u>What is Cyberbullying?</u>

Cyberbullying is the repetitive and intentional hurting of a person or group of people that happens online. It can happen via text, email, on social networks and gaming platforms. For more information please visit:



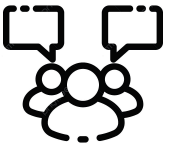
https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/things_you_need_to_know_desktop.pdf

Internet Matters has lots of guides for parents to help deal with cyberbullying, including: how to deal with cyberbullying, how to prevent it, conversation starters and further advice for parents.
https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying/

Group Chats & Whatsapp

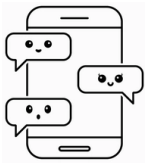
Group chats can be really fun and helpful, they allow you to talk to more than one person at a time. There are lots of apps and social media sites that you can do this on, the most popular one at Trevithick is Whatsapp. 38% of KS2 said that they use Whatsapp. For more information about Whatsapp please visit: https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/social-media/whatsapp/ .

We had a number of children who said that they were using Whatsapp without their parents knowledge, 26% said their parents didn't know that they were using the app. This is worrying as children could be talking to people that you are unaware of, putting your child at risk of being exposed to inappropriate material or being groomed by strangers. It is important to have conversations at home about who they like to chat with and the things they talk about. Reminding them that they can always talk to you or another adult they trust if they ever feel uncomfortable or are unsure of what to do.



Group chats are chats that have more than two people in, on Whatsapp you could have a group with hundreds of people in. They can be used to socialise with others, share hobbies, discuss schoolwork and organise events. When we asked the children, 50% said that they were in group chats.

Parents need to be aware of the negative aspects of group chats in order to help their children navigate them.



Children may end up in chats with people they don't know (both children and adults), this puts children at risk of sharing private information with strangers as well as sharing photos and video chats.

Another problem with group chats is that they have the potential to turn nasty, especially those with lots of people in. Children might send unkind messages, send inappropriate pictures, exclude someone and it could lead to cyberbullying.

Whatsapp Parent-Managed Accounts

Whatsapp has recently released parent-managed accounts. These allow parents greater control of who your child is talking to. All new contacts have to be added by the parent and group chat requests also have to be approved. For more information about parental accounts please visit: https://faq.whatsapp.com/894871699629864

More information about Whatsapp and group chats can be found on these websites:

- https://www.childnet.com/blog/group-chats-the-new-digital-etiquette/
- https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_18/lets-talk-about/socialising-online/group-chats/
- https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

This year we asked children about their knowledge and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). 94% said that they have some knowledge of AI and 58% have used AI in some way. For more information about AI please visit: https://www.internetmatters.org/tech-and-kids-digital-futures/using-artificial-intelligence-safely/

Children were asked what they have used AI for, there were many answers including: making images, research, asking questions, making stories, creating music, helping on homework and chatting.

Recently, there has been lots of discussion around the images of children and uploading them to AI. SWGfL has released an article for parents called: 'Should I Upload Photos of Children into AI?' in the article they discuss the safety concerns and give advice on how to stay safe. Some of the main concerns are:

- It could reveal more information about the child that you realise
- The image could be used for AI training
- The image could be manipulated or altered and shared across harmful spaces.

For more information please visit: https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/should-i-upload-photos-of-children-into-ai/

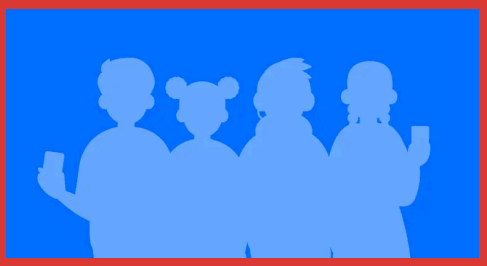
48% of our children have created images using AI; as parents we need to ensure children are not sharing their own images with these websites and are aware that they may generate inappropriate images. Most of these websites have an age limit of 13+.

The most popular websites for using AI amongst our children are Chat GPT and Google Gemini, for more information on Chat GPT please visit: https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/chatgpt-the-future-of-content-creation/
And a guide for Gemini can be found here: https://support.google.com/gemini/answer/16109150?hl=en-GB

Internet Matters has released a conversation guide for parents about AI, this provides age appropriate conversation starters and questions you can use to talk to your child about AI. https://www.internetmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/AI_conversation_guide_for_families_Internet_Matters_2026.pdf

Keeping children with additional needs safe online

If you are a parent of a child with additional needs Internet Matters has a really helpful website. The resource hub contains information on specific issues all children face, but cater it for children with a wide range of additional needs. This means that you can find advice that will help your specific child along with their individual needs.



The website also provides conversation starters and ideas on how you can talk to your child about being safe online.

https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/additional-needs-support/