

VENTURE MAT ONLINE



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Safer Internet Day 2024

This year's Safer Internet Day was "[Making a difference, managing influence, and navigating change online.](#)" Throughout the week children listened to stories, had discussions and completed activities about the changes that they encounter online and how technology has changed over time.



Children learnt about how devices such as computers, phones, music players and game consoles have changed and developed over time and learnt how those changes have affected the way we use the devices today. From record players to streaming music using our phones, the way we interact with technology has rapidly changed.



Younger children listened to two stories about smaller changes that children encounter everyday whilst using devices. [Mo and Jaz's Story](#) is about watching videos online and what to do when a scary video starts to play. It teaches children about talking to a trusted adult and asking for help.



[Hatch Me](#) is a story about a game similar to Adopt Me on Roblox, where children get eggs which they look after and help to hatch and grow. The story tells children what to do if they are scammed during a trade, where someone offers to swap an animal of theirs for one of yours. Often the person you swap with will trick you into giving over a really good animal and then don't uphold their end of the deal, resulting in you losing your animal and not getting anything in return. The children were really good at spotting the scam and gave lots of good advice about what you should do if it happened to you.

1. Tell a trusted adult and ask for help.
2. Report the player to the game.
3. Block the player from being able to contact you again.

At TLA years 5 & 6 also had an online safety talk about the consequences of sharing images and looking after their digital footprints. This included how they need to be aware of what they are posting online and how this could affect their future, as well as changing how they appear online by sharing the great things they do and building a positive impression of themselves.

Sharing Images & Digital Footprints



Children are taught from a young age not to share private information, including their name, address, birth date and pictures. This is to try and keep them as safe as possible. However, we know that despite children knowing this, it does not stop them from doing so.

Children are also taught that once they share something online they lose control of it, this means that they cannot control who might see it, take a screenshot of it, download it or share it. This is why we say that once something is online it will be online forever, because even if you delete it, you can't guarantee that you have deleted all copies of it.

There are real life consequences to posting images and sharing online. Anything posted, liked, commented or looked at will form part of your digital footprint. This is a trail that you leave behind whenever you are online. This trail is like a puzzle, and each bit of data builds a picture of who you are, what you like, where you live, what your opinions are etc.



Companies, colleges, universities, friends etc will use this information to decide whether or not your behaviour online is acceptable. It could result in missing out on colleges and university places, or that dream job!

The other real life consequence is that if an embarrassing or inappropriate image is shared

online, this too will be online forever. This means that you will never know when that image will be looked at or by who.

See [NSPCC](#) for further information about removing inappropriate images from the internet.



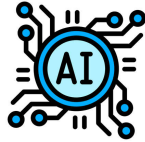
parentzone.org.uk/article/featured-guide-chatbot-ai

Artificial Intelligence (AI)



Artificial Intelligence or AI has developed quickly over the last year or two. It's now becoming part of everyday life. It's important that parents and children are aware of it and how to be safe whilst using it.

Artificial Intelligence is where a computer is able to think and learn so that it can complete tasks that would normally be performed by a human. Computers are able to process a lot more information than humans and are able to complete tasks a lot faster because of this. AI is only as powerful as the information it gathers, the more information it processes the better the computer will be at performing the tasks. The goal is for AI to recognise patterns and make informed decisions like humans.



It's important that both parents and children are aware of its use as we already encounter AI everyday in our homes when using services such as: smart speakers (Amazon Alexa, Siri, Google), spell checker, chat bots, face I.d, suggested videos (Tik Tok, YouTube, Netflix, Disney+), Google Maps and Spotify. It is already being used in lots of industries and teaching children about it now will help prepare them for the future.



For more information and advice about AI please visit the sites below:
www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/
swgfl.org.uk/topics/artificial-intelligence/
parentzone.org.uk/article/chatgpt-and-artificial-intelligence

Online Safety Bill

The Online Safety Bill was passed in October 2023. The purpose of the bill is to make the internet safer for both children and adults.



The bill makes social media companies (Facebook, Tik Tok, Snapchat etc.) more responsible for user's safety on their platforms.

Although it won't change the way we teach children to be safe online, it will hopefully help hold these companies accountable for our safety.

For more information please visit these websites:
www.gov.uk/guidance/a-guide-to-the-online-safety-bill

www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/online-safety-bill-what-parents-and-carers-can-expect/

swgfl.org.uk/assets/documents/online-safety-bill-re-source.pdf?_=1675184268

How to report an incident

If your child tells you 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](https://www.childline.gov.uk/) website or call 0800 1111