

# TLA ONLINE



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Issue 20

## ONLINE SAFETY SURVEY - 2025



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 59% of TLA children spend more than two hours a day online, which shows that we need to make sure we are aware of what the children are doing online and how to keep them safe.



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/](http://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 72% of children talk to their parents about what they like to do online and 65% talk about online safety, this is great! However, only 46% said that parents have set rules for going online. If you need some help starting the conversations please click the link.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>



## HOW TO MAKE A REPORT

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/](http://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](http://www.childline.gov.uk/) website or call 0800 1111



# DEVICES AT BEDTIME



We asked the children if they kept any devices in their bedrooms, over 52% of the children said they had a tablet in their room and over 62% had a TV. We then asked the children if they used their devices during the night when they were in bed. Worryingly, 43% 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. If children are watching using an Amazon Fire Stick, parents can set time limits which will

stop children from being able to watch TV past their bedtimes, as well as set age limits of content they can watch.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=GNTST5RQEYKPGLYE>

# YOUTUBE

YouTube is still the most popular app and 88% of children said that watching videos was their favourite thing to do online. YouTube Kids is a safer alternative, however sometimes inappropriate videos can sneak through.

For more advice on making YouTube as safe as possible, please visit:

[parentzone.org.uk/article/youtube](https://parentzone.org.uk/article/youtube)



# GAMING



# MINECRAFT



The most popular games the children play are still Roblox (84%), Minecraft (66%) and Fortnite (53%). 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.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/online-gaming/>



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 41% 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.

Parents should be 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](http://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings)



## 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 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 helpful guide to setting controls up on any device (phones, consoles, tablets etc)

[www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/](http://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.

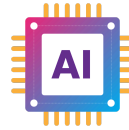


**internet  
matters.org**

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.

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

This year we asked children about their knowledge and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). 85% said that they have some knowledge of AI and 60% 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.

AI chatbots are something we need to be aware of as parents. Chatbots allow people to talk to them and use AI to give realistic responses, this can lead people into believing they are making friends and developing relationships with a real person. Children may end up sharing private or personal information believing it is safe to do so. Below are some websites with advice.

- <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-character-ai-parent-guide/>
- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/how-does-snapchats-new-ai-function-my-ai-impact-young-people>

37% 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 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>



## Be Internet Legends.

KS2 have had access to a few Be Internet Legends assemblies. These are great interactive lessons about online safety.

These assemblies are available to watch at home on YouTube.



Here is a link to the AI assembly on YouTube for you to watch.

<https://youtube.com/live/MNDKRszTZyE?feature=share>

The children have also been given access to an assembly about being safer online explorers.

<https://youtube.com/live/Ulhb0Fw4JC0?feature=share>



# 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.



## What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is the repetitive and intentional hurting of a person or group of people that happens online. It can happen via text, email and 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](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 advice for parents.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying/>

# SMARTPHONES 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](https://www.internetmatters.org/) 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-the-ir-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 helpful guide to their app called '[Family Link](#)' which allows parents to control android devices from their own phones.

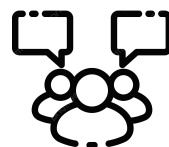
# GROUP CHATS & WHATSAPP



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. 39% of KS2 said that they use Whatsapp. For more information about Whatsapp please visit:

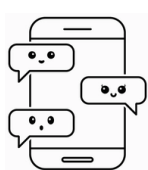
<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/social-media/whatsapp/> .

We had a number of children who said that they were using Whatsapp without their parents knowledge, 31% 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, 42% 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 nasty messages, send inappropriate pictures, exclude someone and it could lead to cyberbullying.

## How to Keep Chats Friendly

- Keep it real - remember that talking face to face is always better than using a screen.
- Be aware of how you use emojis and gifs - they can easily be misinterpreted.
- Make introductions- before adding someone new to the chat, ask permission from others. Write a welcoming message so everyone knows who they are.
- Put feeling first - don't dismiss banter that hurts or embarrasses someone as 'just a joke'. Make sure to apologise for any upset you caused.
- Take a break - leave/mute the chat if you feel uncomfortable.

More information 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.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>