

E-SAFETY

GUIDANCE FOR STAFF

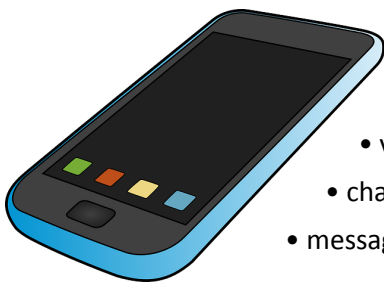


Technology offers children and young people amazing opportunities for a wide variety of activities, including global exploration, social engagement and interactive experiences to name a few.

Despite precautions at school, open access to the internet has become an integral part of many children's lives at home, in libraries, in youth clubs, at friends' houses and on handheld technologies, including mobile phones.

To safeguard our children it is important for us to be aware of the risks they may face and equip them with the knowledge and tools they can use should they become uncomfortable or concerned online.

Recent events in the media have highlighted the increased use of the internet by some people to promote terrorism and violent extremism and to attract individuals who are vulnerable. Some of this content is illegal, some is simply divisive, but all of it has the ability to harm children and young people and expose them to material that is graphic and upsetting.



Some examples of illegal or extremist content include:

- speeches or essays calling for racial or religious violence
- videos of violence with messages of 'glorification' or praise for the attackers
- chat forums with postings calling for people to commit acts of violence
- messages intended to stir up hatred against any religious or ethnic group

Social media platforms such as YouTube, Twitter and Facebook work tirelessly to remove this content, but there is always the risk that some of it will get through.

Much of the content displays violent images (including graphic videos of recent executions) and more worryingly uses the language of popular video games, clearly intended to capture the attention of young people and expose them to violent material.

Here are two examples that illustrate this, using **Call of Duty** and **Grand Theft Auto**:



The events in Syria and Iraq by the group known as ISIL / ISIS have also had the effect of stirring up resentment and hostility among far-right organisations such as the **English Defence League (EDL)**, **National Action** and **Britain First**. These groups have increased their promotion of anti-Muslim narratives, particularly on social media, and staff should be aware that some of the material may be deemed as inciting hatred or violence. Dissemination of such content by pupils or staff could be considered illegal. Some pupils could find the language of these groups distressing or may feel stigmatised and schools should be aware of the effects this inflammatory content can have on the wellbeing of some young people.

The Leicester City LSCB procedures have clear guidance for when dealing with an E-Safety Incident (occurring on either school IT systems, or through students' personal digital equipment), the link to this can be found here: http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_ca_information.html#_guide_indecent)

There is also a dedicated webpage where the school, or an individual, can report online terrorist content you think might be illegal, or which you find offensive, to a specialist department: www.direct.gov.uk/reportingonlineterrorism

If you are concerned that a child is being exploited online, you can raise your concerns with the Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) website <http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

In particular, please remember never to share or transmit any material which could be viewed as harmful or illegal, and instead ensure that you secure the device the material has been accessed on, and lock the item away safely until you have spoken to the police or the Duty and Assessment Service.

The Screen, Searching, and Confiscation guidance from the government (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>) allows employed school staff (not volunteers) to search for any prohibited item if they have 'reasonable grounds' to suspect the pupil is in possession. Examples of digital prohibited items include pornographic images (particularly self-generated by children), racist material, and material that could be seen to promote terrorism.

Confiscation must occur on the school premises (or anywhere where the student is official attending the school, for example on an organised trip), and must be reasonable in all circumstances (with the burden of proof on the school).

Staff discretion is permitted to retain or destroy any prohibited material, as long as the course of action is documented and *reasonable*. A school may choose to delete a picture or video that a student has recorded without the subject's permission, or for more serious incidents are able to retain the device for inspection by other appropriate authorities.

Another source of advice is the Professional Online Safety Helpline (<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/about/helpline>) run by the UK Safer Internet Centre. They can offer advice to any professional working with children on a range of digital technology issues.

