



Matthew Arnold Primary School

Developing True Potential

Online safety June 2026

The internet is a great place for children to learn, connect with friends, and have fun, but it also comes with risks. That's why online safety is so important. By talking to children about safe online behaviour, encouraging them to protect their personal information, and helping them recognise scams, cyberbullying and inappropriate content, we can make their online experiences safer and more positive.

7 Steps to Good Digital Parenting

Seven simple, but still challenging steps to become a good digital parent. It is definitely a journey, like parenting itself. There is no such thing as perfection. Just good enough.



1. TALK WITH YOUR KIDS

Talk early and often
Be open and direct
Stay calm

2. EDUCATE YOURSELF

Search online for anything you don't understand
Try out the apps, games, and sites yourself
Explore FOSI's parenting tips and resources

3. USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Set content and time limits on your kids' devices
Routinely check privacy settings on social media
Monitor your kids' use and their screen time

4. SET GROUND RULES AND ENFORCE CONSEQUENCES

Discuss and sign a family safety agreement
Restrict where and when devices can be used
Remove tech privileges when rules are broken

5. FRIEND AND FOLLOW BUT DON'T STALK

Follow your kids on social media
Respect their online space and freedom
Don't flood their accounts with comments

6. EXPLORE, SHARE, AND CELEBRATE

Go online with your kids and
explore their digital world
Share your own online experiences
Learn from each other and have fun

7. BE A GOOD DIGITAL ROLE MODEL

Curb your own bad digital habits
Know when and where to unplug
Show your kids how to collaborate
and be kind online

For more information:
fosi.org/parenting

Ready, Respectful, Safe

Online Safety Update: Snapchat

We would like to remind parents and carers about the use of Snapchat among children.

Snapchat is a social media app that allows users to send messages, photos and videos. The minimum age requirement for Snapchat is **13 years old**, meaning it is not designed for primary school-aged children. If your child does use Snapchat, please ensure they do so safely and that they know what to do if they have any concerns.

Snapchat

Snapchat is a popular social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time, and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.



Key Concerns

There are potential risks such as:

- the risk of your child viewing content that is not appropriate for their age.
- location sharing (via Snap Map).
- cyberbullying.
- contact from strangers.
- excessive screen time – children may have a fear of missing out (FOMO) as well as pressure to maintain “streaks”.
- “disappearing” messages can lead to more risky behaviour and a “false sense of security.” These messages could be screenshot or another device used to take a photo, so they’re not actually deleted as the sender believes. The image could then be shared.
- in app purchases.

Parental Controls / Safety settings

Snapchat’s Family Centre is a set of parental controls and includes tools such as allowing you to:

- see who your child is friends with.
- see who your child has sent messages (not the contents of conversations though), photos or videos to in the last week.
- view a list of group members for groups that your child has been active in.
- restrict content to limit access.
- report any accounts that you are concerned about.

You can learn more about Family Centre here:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls?lang=en-GB>

If your child is using Snapchat, then make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up, including who can see their location and who can contact them. Also ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary:

<https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

More information

For more detailed advice and information:

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/snapchat>
- <https://parents.snapchat.com/safeguards-for-teens>