



# Online Safety Newsletter: Summer Term 2021

## End of Term

Welcome to the final edition of the Online Safety Newsletter, I hope that you have found the newsletters useful throughout the course of this year. As we approach the summer holidays and easing of restrictions our thoughts may be on days out and enjoying the fresh air. However, parents still need to be mindful of their children's screen time and in some cases hesitancy to step away from their devices. The last 12 months have changed the culture of entertainment and the way young people interact, with a huge increase of screen time to stay connected, whether that be for education or social reasons. Now, more than ever, we as parents and teachers need to know what children are doing online and continue to have open conversations and discussions around staying safe online.

## Talking to children about online risks

The Safer School creators have produced the following Top Tips for talking to your child about online risks:

- Engage young people in a conversation **about keeping safe online and who they would talk to if someone made them feel uncomfortable online or if they see something online that worries or upsets them.**
- When talking to a child or young person, it's best not to mention the app or website by name. If you do, it is likely that the child or young person will check out the platform on their own if they haven't done so already. **Instead, ask them what kind of new sites/apps they are using with their friends.**
- **You should support children to understand the implications of sharing content that is explicit, particularly if this involves images or chats with other children.**
- You can also submit an online report to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) by clicking [here](#).
- **If you have concerns about the immediate safety of a young person, you should contact the emergency services on 999 (emergency number)**



## Monkey

### Age rating (18)

Billed as "the Omegle alternative for TikTokers" in reality children are linked with total strangers through this Google Play Store App and website (currently only available for Android devices via an App).

Monkey is an online video chat service that children can access and link with strangers from all over the world via webcam. This online video chat service is similar to Omegle or Chat Roulette, with a TikTok style interface.

Users create their profile using their Google or Facebook account however, using this platform via the web browser negates the need to create an account.

Major concerns with this App and platform include significant access to harmful content, there is no age verification and it has been designed to attract children.

For more information use the Safer Schools App or read the blog article directly by clicking <https://ineqe.com/2021/07/06/safeguarding-alert-monkey-web/>

## Parent Controls

In addition to having regular chats with children about keeping safe online and their browsing habits there are preventative precautions that can be set to help keep young people in our care safe. Parental Control features are a way to set limitations and restrictions on devices and networks. The UK's main mobile providers (Vodafone, EE O2 and Three) automatically block 18+ content through Active Choice network-level filtering system. But when connected to Wi-Fi at home or elsewhere these filters won't apply. To help with this, below are some quick links to help you set up Parental Controls from the main Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

BT - <https://www.bt.com/help/security/how-to-keep-your-family-safe-online-with-bt-parental-controls-an>

Sky - <https://www.sky.com/help/diagnostics/sky-broadband-shield/sky-broadband-shield> ("Sky Broadband Shield is automatically turned on when you join Sky Broadband, and is set so it's suitable for teenagers during the day and adults in the evening.")

Virgin - <https://www.virginmedia.com/shop/broadband/parental-control>

Apple - <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

For further advice and information from UK Safer Internet Centre click <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parental-controls-offered-your-home-internet-provider>

## Screen Time

To help change the way that we look at and manage children's screen time there is an interesting article from Ineqe the developers of the Safer Schools App, to read more about screen time click here

<https://ineqe.com/2021/07/09/down-the-devices-how-to-develop-healthy-habits-on-screen-time/>

## News Hub

As part of the Safer Schools App the **News Hub** has many areas that will be extremely useful to parents, these include: **News** and **Calendar** which link directly to the ATS school website; **Safety Hub** providing up to date articles to read; **Video Hub** providing the latest safety news in video format and many more.

## Safer Schools Blog

For up to date information of all things Online Safety go here <https://ineqe.com/blog/> to access the blog brought by Ineqe the company that deliver Safer Schools. There are lots of helpful articles and links to further information, especially if you haven't downloaded the Safer Schools App and would like a quick route to useful information to stay up to date with the latest online information.

## Quizzes and Digital Tests

There are a number of Quick Quizzes and Digital Tests to help you test your knowledge, should you wish to try the Digital Tests please use the pin number 7575 to enter the Tests.

## Further support

Mrs McLean is available via email at [h.mclean@archbishoptemple.com](mailto:h.mclean@archbishoptemple.com) for further help and advice should you require any assistance outside of school.