

OUR ONLINE SAFETY CURRICULUM

Next term our online safety theme will be:
'Managing Online Information.'

The children will learn about strategies for effective searching, critical evaluation, and ethical publishing.



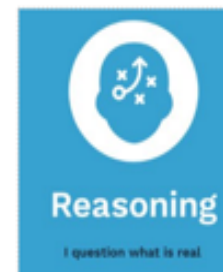
ProjectEvolve

**To support your child, could you...
ask them:**

- How do you use the internet?
- What key words or phrases do they look up?
- What kind of information pops up?
- Is it what they expected?
- How does this make you feel?

This term, we are focusing on our '4Rs'
Talk to your child about what they understand this to represent.
What do they know?

THE 4 R_s



NOS have some useful tips for you...

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it's needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, tips and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ANIME

Anime, which originates from Japan, is currently one of the most popular sources of entertainment in the world. This style of animation goes back to the mid 20th century, with a broad audience ranging from children to adults. Known for its epic stories, anime often crosses over with video games and other avenues of pop culture via adaptations or spin-offs – such as Cyberpunk: Edgerunners, an anime web series based on the popular video game, Cyberpunk 2077. The most common intersect however, is manga, a term of graphic novel from which most anime is adapted.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some people assume that anime is safe for children purely because it's animation. However, a large amount is actually geared towards adults, often featuring swearing, graphic violence and nudity. Many anime series follow dark themes, such as Cyberpunk: Edgerunners, which has swiftly become popular for its extreme gore, sexual content and disturbing depictions of mental health conditions.

COMMON CROSSOVERS

It's easy for children to get drawn into anime through its many crossovers into video games, such as Fortnite and Call of Duty, while anime art style is often used for other products, due to its popularity. Titles like the PS5 Genefin Impact may look quite cute and accessible, but its mechanics can introduce young players to behaviours that have much in common with gambling.

DECEPTIVE APPEARANCE

It's easy to mistake anime graphics for a sign of harmless, child-friendly content. Its style (big eyes, colourful hair and cute voices), however, can disguise some extremely adult themes. Vandore Simulator, for example, strongly resembles a child's game at face value, thanks to its art style, but in reality it features incredibly dark themes such as murder, kidnapping and torture.

ROBLOX REPRODUCTIONS

There are hundreds of user-created Roblox games which take their inspiration from anime and manga. While many of these titles will be perfectly safe experiences, there are some that prefer to focus on the storylines of adult and horror anime. Death Note, for example (based on the manga and anime series of the same name) would probably be extremely disturbing for most younger players.

MATURE MANGA

The majority of anime is adapted from manga, a form of Japanese comic book. Manga usually features an age rating on the back cover, and it's worth bearing in mind that just because it's a comic, that doesn't mean it's suitable for youngsters. In fact, most popular manga leans heavily towards darker subject matter, which is unquestionably aimed at an adult audience.

ADULT THEMES

Hentai is a type of manga, anime and video game which revolves around characters engaging in explicit sexual encounters. While anime of this kind is usually only found on pornography sites, some gaming platforms – such as Steam – do allow the sale of these titles (referred to as "H-Games" in the community) and even feature them on the front of their store page when sales are on.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Despite all the problematic content, there's still a lot of anime out there which is completely child-friendly. Pokémon and One Piece are all long-running anime shows which have family-friendly stories and content. Make sure you check for age ratings and content warnings on streaming platforms when deciding if a particular anime series is suitable for your child.

WATCH WITH YOUR CHILD

Anime covers a multitude of topics, so it's easy to find something that the whole family can enjoy. Anime shows typically involve action and adventure, superheroes, romance, comedy and much more. Watching this content alongside your child isn't only a way to spend quality time together – it will also help you to spot quite quickly if there's potential for any difficult topics to arise in the show.

IT'S NOT JUST TV

Anime is most often in the format of a TV series, but it is also presented as films. Studio Ghibli is often referred to as 'the Japanese Disney' due to the quality and number of films they produce. Most of their movies are fine for children, though they often feature more mature subject matter than western animation; Grave of the Fireflies, for instance, is set in Japan during the Second World War.

CHECK GAMES' FEATURES

Often, crossovers with video games simply involve using anime characters as 'skins' to modify the appearance of characters while playing (as in Fortnite, for example). If your child's interested in an anime-inspired game that you're unfamiliar with, however, look online at the game's features and for any content warnings to gain a clearer idea of what your child might be exposed to.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Unsworth is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 19 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Splatoon, Roblox, Minecraft and Minecraft: Education Edition. His work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VOXX2. He has reviewed more than 100 games and products over the past year.

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Everyday Digital: Online Gaming



Wallpaper Flare

How well do you know the online games your child plays?

Everyday Digital hosted a live YouTube event on gaming, with advice you can share with your family.

Join hosts Chelsea and Parent Zone CEO Vicki Shotbolt for tips to help them have the most positive time. This Everyday Digital session is part of Parent Zone Local, bringing media literacy skills to your doorstep.

Click on this link to watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1qcSTW5kAM>





Everyday Digital: Content

Content online can come in an almost endless variety of ways.

There's the obvious stuff, like music and podcasts, TV and movies, videos, articles, and games. But there's newer content forms all the time, from live streams to NFTs and virtual reality. Even the T-shirt a celeb wears in a social post can be content.

And it's not just something we consume. We are also creating it all the time, too. The last time you sent a text or email, that was content.

All very well. But most online content is also designed to affect you in some way. It can be an advert for a charity that pulls at your heartstrings, so you donate. It can be a 'clickbaity' video that wants you to subscribe to a channel. It can also be misinformation (something that is incorrect) or disinformation (something deliberately designed to deceive you).



Read between the lines

In day-to-day life, we naturally tend to read between the lines about situations and ask what's really going on. For example, if the parent of your child's friend acted a bit funny at the school gates, you'd probably start to wonder why. Did I say something? Has my child done something? What is the reason?

Similarly, reading between the lines can help you ask the right questions about content. What might content be trying to get you to do or make you feel?

And do you *know* and *trust* where the content has come from (or in other words, the source)? It's about checking facts and staying alert. Not just when something is bold or outlandish, but regularly and across lots of different online spaces.



Three easy content habits

#1 – Ask yourself ‘what?’ and ‘why?’

Start to practise asking yourself questions about content – what something you've seen or read wants you to do or feel. It doesn't even have to be online content. It could be reading a kid's book, or a song on the radio. A good example is the free magazines you find in supermarkets. How does the cover make you feel when you see one? Hungry, probably. And if you're hungry in a supermarket, what are you likely to do? Buy more food!

You can repeat this way of questioning content as many times as you like. Start small and try gradually increasing how critical you are.

#2 – Branch out

One way to have more confidence in the content that you consume is to actively look for more of it.

Try engaging with different and diverse sources of content that you wouldn't normally. It can be anything from a social account to a news website.

Set yourself a weekly challenge of browsing a news website you don't often visit or following an account which you don't always agree with. Whatever it is, try and test new content.

#3 – Try a little edit

This is the opposite of branching out. Actually, all it involves is occasionally having a little trim of some content you regularly engage in.

If you've come to get a bit fed up with something – maybe a site that has annoying advertising pop-ups or a group where it's more negative than positive – then get rid or stop visiting.

This doesn't need to be a non-stop process, but at the end of each month, ask yourself what accounts or channels you could do without.

Written by ParentZone

