

## OUR ONLINE SAFETY CURRICULUM

Term 2: Our online safety theme this term is 'Online Bullying.' We will be discuss and describe appropriate ways to behave towards other people and why this is important. As a class, we will think carefully about how we speak to others online through chats and posts, as this might affect others people and their perception of us. We will discuss different ways bullying can happen and what that could look like but most importantly how we can prevent these situations escalating by getting help. We will explore strategies for effective reporting and intervention and how bullying and other aggressive behaviour relates to legislation.



ProjectEvolve

To support this, you could talk to your child about the similarities and differences between themselves and others. Reminding them to celebrate those differences. Maybe they could draw a picture of themselves, and another family member then discuss the things that are the same and different.

We will be celebrating...



## This term we will be focusing on the 'T' in our online safety SMART rules.

Talk to your child about what they understand this to represent. What do they know?



## Festive Card Competition Overview

One of the best things about this time of year is the sending and receiving of cards.

We need a new official festive card for 2022 and we thought who better to design it than our incredibly creative Purple Mash community.

That's why the Purple Mash Festive Card Competition is back!

### WHO CAN ENTER

- The competition is aimed at children between the ages of 5 to 11 (Up to age 18 for children with additional needs).
- Each child can submit one entry to the competition.
- There is an under 5s, under 8s and an under 12s category. Children who turned 5 before 1st September 2022 should enter the under 5s category, children who turned 8 before 1st September 2022 should enter the under 8s category and others should enter the under 12s category.
- Children with additional needs should be allocated the appropriate age category by their teacher.

### HOW TO ENTER

- Children enter their work by submitting it to the 'Festive Card Competition' Display Board for their age group.
- There is a [video in Purple Mash](#) showing how to do this.
- Children should submit their work once they are happy with it.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- The competition is open from the 4th to the 23rd November 2022.
- Judging will commence on the 24th November.
- Winners will be announced shortly after the judging\*.
  - \*The judges' decision is final and we will have 1 overall winner, plus 3 runners up, in each category. Winners and runners up will be contacted as soon as possible after the competition has finished.

### CHOOSING A STYLE

You can use any of the seventeen 2Paint a Picture styles to enter the competition. All designs must be your pupils' original artwork.

### STAYING SAFE ONLINE

The competition Display Boards will be visible to the public, so it's important not to include personal information in your entries. Do not use names or other personal information as part of the designs. **Any entries that include personal information will not be accepted or displayed on the board.**

The only information visible on the board will be the school name.

### PRIZES

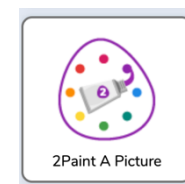
Winners\* will receive 50 printed copies of their card, a £20 Amazon voucher and a 2Simple Goody Bag. Their card will also be made into an e-card through Purple Mash.

\*The prize stated is for UK winners. If an international pupil wins the competition, the prize will be decided upon by the 2Simple Head Office within that country and is subject to change.

### VIEWING YOUR WORK ON THE DISPLAY BOARD

The Display Boards will be visible for the duration of the competition. Children will see their work once it has been approved by our team. Depending on the number of entries we receive, this may take some time, but we will work through the entries as quickly as possible.

All approved entries should be visible on the Display Boards by the end of November. Use the search box to find your entries quickly.





## Some tips about technology from NOS...

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 is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

### What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls; essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

**AGE RATING**  
18

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION**  
While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

**INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT**  
Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "you're just my type" and "let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

**MEMBERSHIP COSTS**  
Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

**LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION**  
Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up with a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a false age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

**REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE**  
Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing intimacy levels with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online "friendship" reaches intimacy level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

### Advice for Parents & Carers

**MONITOR DOWNLOADS**  
As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable "ask to buy" (Apple) or "purchase approvals" (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

**RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS**  
Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

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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 is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

### What Parents & Carers Need to Know about OVERWATCH 2

A long-awaited sequel to 2016's massively successful Overwatch, this is a futuristic shooting game with a focus on teamwork and strategy which gives it an extra dimension to the majority of titles in the game. Its cast of characters is diverse and memorable, while there's a definite (and rewarding) learning curve to players improving their skill. Created by established developers Blizzard Entertainment, Overwatch 2 is free to play, with an emphasis on competitive multiplayer action – meaning that children may want to play the game even more simply because their friends have it.

**AGE RATING**  
PEGI 12

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**MULTIPLE PASSWORDS**  
Overwatch 2 supports convenient cross-play across consoles and PC – as long as users link all their devices under a unifying account on the Blizzard battle.net platform. This has other benefits (preserving a player's original skins for use in the new game), but if your child does want to link their accounts, be warned: the process can be extremely tricky and requires multiple passwords.

**VOICE CHAT**  
As a shooting game which focuses on fast-paced, competitive play, teamwork is central to getting the most out of the Overwatch 2 experience. Many players use voice chat to coordinate with other users – often with friends, but sometimes also with strangers. In either case, this means your child is in contact with others, who may – for example – use offensive language in the heat of the moment.

**IN-GAME PURCHASING**  
Like many free-to-play games, Overwatch 2 offers in-game purchases for unlocking its colourful skins. While new characters arrive as part of a free "battle pass" each season (normally lasting around three months), players can unlock them much earlier by buying a premium version of the pass. There are also in-game bundles (with varying costs) themed around certain characters or events.

**VIOLENT GAMEPLAY**  
Overwatch 2 heavily features combat, although the on-screen shootouts are relatively sanitised. Most of its characters are of sci-fi/fantastical nature (there's a gorilla scientist with a laser weapon, for instance, and a DJ on roller-blades who fires sound energy), but some – such as Reaper, an assassin in a wrath-like metal mask – are a little on the darker side and could unsettle younger players.

### Advice for Parents & Carers

**ASSIST WITH ACCOUNT LINKING**  
If your child is trying to link their accounts from different devices together, it might be wise for you to help them set it up. Not only should it enable the process to run more smoothly (and save you being asked for the passwords for each account), but you'll also be able to make sure that the website for linking is correct. We've put the right web address under the expert's bio at the bottom of this guide.

**MONITOR COMMUNICATIONS**  
Playing Overwatch 2 with friends is almost universally the most popular way to enjoy the game. If your child is playing with a new friend they only know online – or a stranger – you may want to monitor the chat to make sure they aren't being exposed to anything unsavoury. You might also decide to adjust the in-game voice chat settings so only confirmed friends can speak to your child.

**USE IT AS INSPIRATION**  
Overwatch characters represent many races, nationalities, gender identities and sexual orientations. This eclectic roster of heroes offers a superb jumping-off point for discussing racial, sexual or gender diversity with your child. Whether it's finding Nepal on a globe together or talking about non-traditional relationships, the game could be an excellent conversation starter.

**LIMIT IN-GAME SPENDING**  
The loot boxes featured in the first Overwatch have been replaced by a rotating set of cosmetics – so users only have a set time to purchase a skin or item before it becomes unavailable. Your child can earn plenty of items, however, through the free battle pass. In any case, we'd advise removing any payment methods – or at least setting limits in advance – if you're worried about in-game spending.

**WATCH SOME GAMEPLAY**  
Overwatch players fight with an array of weapons and explosives, but the battles are presented in a way that forgives a lot of mistakes and dismemberment, regardless of the mode or characters selected. The game also usually avoids the word "kill" – instead, "eliminations" instead. Watching lookups of Overwatch 2 on YouTube could help you decide whether it's suitable for your child before they play.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dailymail and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time fan of gaming, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including iGEM and Techradar, among others.

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