

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 other 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



On the 7th February, we will be celebrating Safer Internet Day 2023. This year the national theme is:

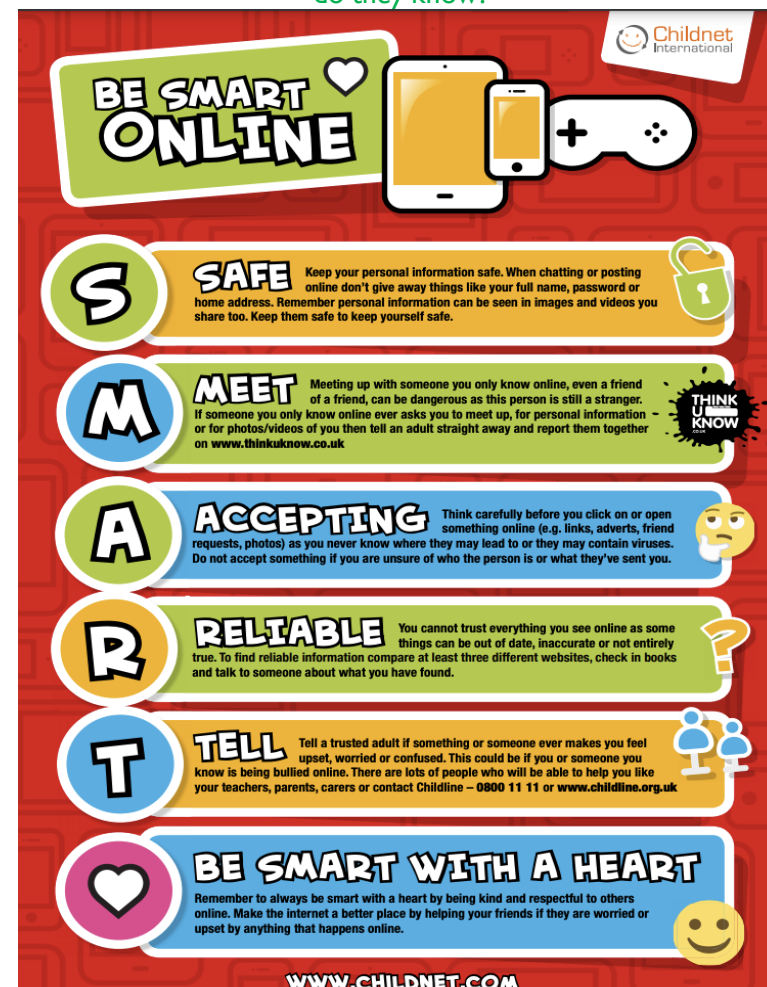


This year we are hoping to answer the following questions:

- What issues really matter to children and young people?
- What changes do they want to see?
- How can we all work together to advocate for them moving forward?

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?



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 app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HiPAL

AGE RESTRICTION 12+
(with reduced functionality for under-18s)

HiPAL is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, allowing people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers, enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, sending private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS
When under-12 accounts don't allow direct connections with strangers (although children seeing more friends can share their 'friend code' on other platforms), but for older users, chatting with strangers seems to be the app's main appeal. The 'Public Square' shows nine online users (colours represent those with another name), and clicking on someone's profile leads to a conversation.

SEXING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS
Almost immediately after our expert deemed the app dangerous, strangers began to message privately – asking for inappropriate images or sharing explicit photos of themselves. Likewise, in the 'Square' feed, many of the pictures and videos are for more mature audiences. There is always the risk of children's privacy being a revealing photo and uploading it to the app.

NEED FOR VALIDATION
Some users – particularly girls – post pictures on apps of false types hoping for positive reactions and comments to boost their self-esteem. Suggestive images tend to attract more flattering feedback, encouraging the user to post more frequently and with more explicit content. Conversely, receiving unkind comments about their appearance impacts a young user's confidence and sense of self-worth.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EMPHASISE CAUTION
Remind your child of the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Some may be using the app inappropriately; others may have more sinister intentions. Encourage your child to consider what information they disclose in private messages and to encourage them to avoid sharing details about themselves or others on the internet ever attempt to persuade them to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXING
It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sharing explicit images, as well as the emotional impact. Make it clear your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that they should tell a trusted adult if they receive any unwanted explicit images.

BUILD RESILIENCE
With HiPAL's lack of moderation, it's imperative that children are equipped to handle negative comments. They might receive one or two, but if they do, they should not feel embarrassed. Encourage them to ignore them, delete them, and report them. Discuss how the risk area made them feel – and what they could do if someone posted a comment that upset them.

CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING
Many users on HiPAL publicly share photos that are intended to be sharing in the hope of gaining more likes, friends and positive feedback – boosting their self-esteem and making them feel more self-assured. When young people regularly engage with social media platforms, it's important that parents and carers keep in mind the potential impact such platforms can have on mental wellbeing.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Hulme is a digital safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written author evidence papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and wellbeing of young people in the UK, Ireland and Australia.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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Welcome coders!

Amazon has set up a cyber challenge!



What is the challenge?

Can you code an **Amazon Hercules robot** to deliver your friend's birthday present on time?

Join this **free, 3-hour virtual challenge** to learn programming basics.

The challenge runs on Chrome and is recommended for aged 8 or above.

If you want to take part:
BICESTER SPARKS

Join link:

<https://account.gocoderz.com/join-class/zow7jqfbii>

Class code: **zow7jqfbii**

https://www.amazonfutureengineer.co.uk/cyberrobotics?utm_campaign=EVERFI_Email&utm_medium=ACRC&utm_source=UK

