



Online Safety Update – June 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we are approaching the Summer, now is a good time to think about 'sharenting'. Proud parents and carers up and down the country love to share images of their child enjoying the Summer and there is nothing wrong with that. However, there are a few things to keep in mind to ensure we are keeping our children as safe as possible:

1. Think about seaside or beach photos. Are you ok with sharing pictures of your child in their swimming costume? Think about whether your child consents to this, and who could have access to the image. Remember that children of all ages can be body-conscious and may not feel comfortable with this being shared.
2. Remember not to share holiday snaps while you're away (save them for when you're back and wishing you were still on the beach!) – several insurance companies will refuse to pay out for a burglary if you have advertised you are away from home via social media
3. If you are internet dating, think carefully before you share that you have children. Some abusers have been known to target parents on these sites in order to gain access to children.
4. Remember that when we share images 'out and about, we are often giving away our location to strangers. Not only are we advertising that we are not in for the day (think about point 2) but we are letting everyone know exactly where we and our children are. Try to switch your location settings off before you post!

For more information on the risks of 'sharenting', you can read the following article: [Sharenting: Parents Must Stop Posting about Their Kids on Social Media \(onlinesense.org\)](https://www.onlinesense.org/sharenting-parents-must-stop-posting-about-their-kids-on-social-media)

For help with this and anything else to do with your child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the pastoral team on 0121 569 7080