



May 2025 Online Safety Update

This month's Online Safety theme is 'accessing distressing content'.

Back in October, you may remember the tragic death of Liam Payne, our fellow Black Country One Directioner, turned global super star. His death was shocking, sudden and seemed to be reported everywhere. Swiftly afterwards, his family, friends and ex partner had to issue statements including a request for journalists and others to stop sharing the devastating and gruesome images of his body as he died.

It can be shocking to hear that anyone would wish to take photos of such an incident but in fact, this behaviour has become relatively normalised online – and these images are easily accessible to young people who may have a morbid curiosity of how someone died.

Sometimes, children come across such images because they search for them, and other times, they might be pressured into viewing them by their peers and try not to show their horror. Other times, children simply stumble across these images as they use the internet and may be upset and scared by what they see.

So what can we do as parents/carers? Well, firstly we can talk to our child about this! Explain that sometimes this happens and it is not right. We can say that just because these images exist does not mean we should view them and that if nobody viewed them, demand for the photos to be taken would decrease. We can also talk about how it must feel for the family and friends of that person, and how we would feel if someone did this to others. Making sure you monitor your child's social media use is vital and setting parental controls can stop such images slipping through the net.

As always, if you have any concerns about your child's Online Safety (or any other safeguarding matter), please do not hesitate to contact the pastoral team on 0121 569 7080

