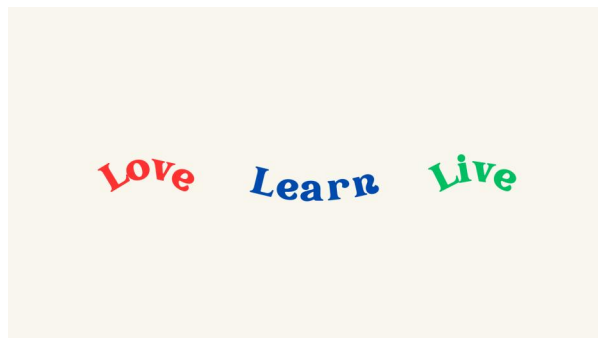




Online Safety Update - December 2025

As we head into the holidays, it feels like an appropriate time to share an online safety update with you. Like many things, different families have different rules and boundaries around online access for their children, however we know that some of our children will have more access to online content in the coming weeks at home and some of you will have bought phones or online devices for your children for Christmas.

This update is written to support you in making choices as a family and to help you protect your children where possible when accessing online content.



Safer Internet - Have a Conversation

It is really important to talk to your children about staying safe online. we teach online safety in school at several points during the year but if this conversation is also happening at home, then children are receiving a clear and consistent message about how to navigate the online world.

Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.

What games do you and your friends like to play online? Can you show me the websites you visit the most? Shall we play your favourite game online together?

Ask them about how they stay safe online.

What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

Ask them if they know where to go for help.

Where can they go to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use?

Think about how you each use the internet.

Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family online? Could you be a role model for your child by using the internet/ your phone less when they are around?



Where can I get help?

If you feel out of your depth with the online world for children or are experiencing difficulties with your child online at home, you are not alone. You are always welcome to pop in to school for a chat - we are always willing to help where we can, or you could take a look at some of the excellent websites that offer parents support with online safety.

Here is a list of some of the best sites we have experience of:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers> - Great guides to a range of different technology.

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/> - A place to report online incidents and lots of excellent family resources to open conversations at home.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/> - Access advice about how to set up parental controls for a wide range of devices, apps and more.

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/4-11-year-olds> - Specific advice for families with 4 - 11 year olds



Smartphone Free Childhood

We know that mobile phones often become part of children's lives as they begin to walk to and from school independently or prepare for secondary school. In these circumstances, they can offer much reassurance or convenience - tracking where your child is or having the ability to message to check in. However, there is an increasing amount of evidence that screen time and access to the online world via smartphones is having a negative impact on children and young people. In school, we have found that children have access to apps that they are not mature enough to navigate and the fall out can often be very challenging. Studies have also shown that devices can cause sleep disruption, mental health issues, a lack of focus and less time spent as a family.

Whilst we would never tell parents what is right for their family, we are aware of the growing support for the **Smartphone Free Childhood** campaign and understand that alongside a growing national interest a number of families within our community have signed the parent pact, and are choosing to delay giving children smartphones and access to social media to their children. If this is something you are interested in, then do take a look at their website as they have many resources to support you and answer your questions:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resources-for-parents>



Safeguarding

Online safety falls under our safeguarding remit and safeguarding our children will always be a priority for everyone in our federation. All staff are trained in how to keep children safe and alongside this we have our safeguarding team:

Safeguarding Leads

Members of staff who are safeguarding leads are as follows:

- Mrs Natalie Frey: Designated Safeguarding Lead and Executive Headteacher.
- Miss Amy Wilson: Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Executive Deputy Headteacher, SENDCO and Inclusion Lead
- Mrs Felicity Kear: Deputy Safeguarding Lead (St Briavels)
- Mrs Julia Price: Deputy Safeguarding Lead, School Business Manager

However, any one of our staff can be contacted in relation to Safeguarding.

If you ever have a safeguarding concern or query about ANY child within our community, please do contact us.

IF ANY ADULT FEELS A CHILD OR ADULT MAY BE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER YOU MUST CALL MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) OR 999.

If you are worried about a child or young person in **Gloucestershire** and want to speak to someone, or if you are a child or young person worried about your own safety, please contact the MASH on 01452 426 565

If you are worried about a child or young person in **Monmouthshire** and want to speak to someone, or if you are a child or young person worried about your own safety, please contact the MASH on 01291 635 669

