



Corbets Tey School

Technology and Online Safety Newsletter

Edition Number: 2

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The Department for Education guidance document **Keeping Children Safe in Education (May 2016 updated Sept 2016)** sets out the legal duties with which schools and colleges must comply in order to keep children safe including keeping safe online.

Visit our website to see the information that we share:



'Keeping Safe' page – online safety resources and information and other messages about keeping children safe.

'Parent info Online Safety' page – an RSS feed with constantly updated information a wide range of subject matter to help parents help their children be discriminating, web-literate and resilient.



We are aware of the special challenges for our parents regarding online safety. We want to work in partnership with you to identify where additional support and information is needed and how to use this to protect your children. This newsletter will be sent out monthly to ensure that you are aware of the latest developments and information available.

FREE Online Course for Parents and Carers

Welcome to Resilient Families – a free online course to help you get to grips with the things you really worry about when the children and young people in your care go online.

It includes topics such as radicalisation and extremism, cyberbullying and sexting.

Keeping them safe

This easy-to-follow programme will help any parent wanting to make sure their children stay safe and happy online.

Three short episodes cover:

- Your child's online world.
- The Bad Stuff – including online extremism and how radicalisation happens.
- How to use your offline parenting skills to help your child stay safe online.

You can complete the programme in your own time, pause and come back later, or take them as often as you like.

Click on the Episode numbers below to get started or copy/type the URL in to your Internet Browser address bar.

If you have trouble viewing the page on a mobile phone, please click 'Reader view' (usually accessible via the three horizontal lines at the top of the screen.)

[Episode 1](#)

<http://parentzone.org.uk/training/resilient-families-episode-1>

Understanding your child's online world. What you need to know about the different services they use and the functionality that you need to watch out for.

[Episode 2](#)

<http://parentzone.org.uk/training/resilient-families-episode-2>

What might put your child at risk - and how do people intending to cause them harm operate.

[Episode 3](#)

<http://parentzone.org.uk/training/resilient-families-episode-3>

How you can respond. What works and how can you make sure your offline parenting is just as effective online.

We are a Digital School! Free Training for Parents

Our school is part of Parent Zone's Digital Schools Membership programme, recognising our commitment to keeping our pupils safe online, and making sure we work with you and all of the school community to achieve this.

Digital Schools membership includes access to Parent Zone's online digital parenting course, Parenting in the Digital Age. This short course gives you straightforward information and advice on how to manage and feel confident about your child's online world.

For your free access to the programme, go to www.parentzone.org.uk/parentcourse.

- Click on the pink **'Add to cart'** button to start your registration.
- On the next page click **checkout**. You'll then be asked to enter your email address.
- On the next page, you will need to enter the coupon code **DSP16** to ensure you have free access to the programme.

Once you've completed the short registration you'll receive two emails - one confirming your order and one with log in instructions. After clicking the link in the email press the log-in button and you should be asked to set a password, after which you will be directed to the Parent Resources page where you can start the course.

Once you have logged in the Parenting in the Digital Age course page will always be accessible at this link: <http://parentzone.org.uk/membership/parent-resources>.

From Parent Zone's [homepage](#), the course can be accessed by clicking the **'Membership'** tab and then **'Parents Area'**. From here you'll be able to take the course whenever it suits you and come back to it at your convenience.

Another benefit of our Digital Schools membership is access to an email help service for parents, so if you have any questions about the course or any aspect of your family's online life, you can email dshelp@parentzone.org.uk for free, confidential advice.

Should you share pictures of your children online?

CEOP's Jonathan Baggaley, examines the very modern phenomenon of social media 'sharenting'

Are you a 'sharent'?

For many children online life begins before birth, when their excited parents-to-be post ultrasound images on social media.

According to research by Parent Zone in 2015, the average parent will share their child's image online nearly 1000 times before their fifth birthday. As well as pictures, parents will share funny stories, information, or personal details, such as when their children's birthdays are. Some parents even set up blogs or vlogs online in which they post stories, pictures and videos of their children as they grow, accessible to anyone who wishes to follow them.

So, what are the advantages and disadvantages to sharenting?



The internet can provide fantastic tools for allowing special moments from your child's early years to be shared with family and friends. And online forums, networks and blogs often provide valuable support and reassurance for parents at a time when it's easy to feel isolated or under pressure.

But parental sharing can affect children as they grow up. No longer is the embarrassment of baby snaps restricted to digging out the photo album when you first meet your teen's new boyfriend or girlfriend. Sharing photos and information online is permanent, and what can seem appropriate to share now may not be in the future.

So, what should you consider before you share?

- **Who's looking?**

When did you last check your privacy settings? On most social networks the default is that any other service user can access your pictures, which may also appear in internet search results. Google your child's name to review the information you post and the social networks you use. Remember that anyone who can see a photo can also download or screenshot it, and could go on to share it.

- **What else are you sharing?**

You might be sharing more than what's in the post. As default, many cameras, phones and apps tag posts and photos with 'meta-data' which can include location details and other identifying information. This is potentially risky for any child, but poses particular risks for vulnerable children such as those who have been fostered or adopted and could be sought online by members of their birth family.



- **Ownership**

Under the terms and conditions of most social networks, when you share a photo you license the network to use and reproduce your image, and grant it the right to license it for use by third parties. Your picture could then be used for commercial purposes and you may be surprised to know where it could end up - in extreme cases printed on a mug and sold on the internet! Another online activity which emerged in 2015 and has distressed parents and carers is 'baby role play', a game played by some Instagram users who repost photographs of other people's children and create fictional identities based on them, inviting others to role-play being 'Mummy and Daddy'.

- **Your child's digital tattoo**

Every publicly accessible image or comment featuring your child contributes to a public image which will follow them into the future. That apocalyptic nappy incident might make for a hilarious tweet now, but if it comes to light when they're older, how could it affect the way they feel about themselves, or you, or how others see them? Could their online childhood become an issue if they are seeking a job, or a relationship, or even election to public office?

Top tips for parent bloggers

If you've set up a blog to share your parenting experiences with a wider audience, you've probably already given plenty of thought to issues such as your child's privacy, managing their digital footprint, ownership and copyright of images, and commercialism. Strategies adopted by some successful bloggers include: making their own and their child's identities anonymous, involving their child in the content they create and only posting material they are happy with, and carefully monitoring their child's online presence. Ways to do this include setting up a Google Alert for their name. Some parents also choose to watermark the images they post, making them less attractive to those who might re-use them. (There are various ways to do this, depending on the software you use. Simply search for 'How to watermark photos' online.)

Your child's right to privacy

Once information about your children is on the internet it can be difficult for them to control it and so we need to be considerate when we share things on their behalf.

Respecting this right to a private life now, and in the future, and involving them in decisions about what to post online once they are old enough, is not only good manners, it could also help them learn the importance of thinking before they share things on social media themselves.

<http://parentinfo.org/article/should-you-share-pictures-of-your-children-online>

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is abusive emails or see. Like any form them to talk about.



when someone bullies others over the internet or on a mobile phone by sending texts directly or by posting nasty comments or humiliating images for others to of bullying, cyberbullying can be horrible for the children involved and hard for

How is cyberbullying different from other bullying?

One of the biggest differences between cyberbullying and face-to-face bullying is that it can be hard to get away from. Young people could be bullied anywhere, anytime – even when they're at home.

Cyberbullying can have a large audience too. Posts on social networks, emails or group chats can be seen by lots of people very quickly. Cyberbullies can also remain anonymous, by using fake profiles on social networks or blocking their phone numbers. This can make it harder to identify the bullies, but texts and other messages can be saved as proof of the bullying.

Preventing your child from cyberbullying

Talking to your children about cyberbullying is as important as talking to them about any other type of bullying. Children who are being cyberbullied usually find it difficult to talk about it and it can be an upsetting, awkward and difficult subject for parents too. Try to have as open and honest a relationship with your child as possible. Make sure they know they can talk to you if anyone ever upsets them over the internet or on their mobile phone, and give them the space to talk about anything that's upsetting them without being judgemental or getting upset. If you find it hard communicating with your child about cyberbullying, you're not alone. These tips are a good place to start:

Ask obvious questions

Start conversations with open, honest questions about what they've been doing online and who they've had messages from.

Listen without judging

Your child might worry that you'll think they're weak or will be angry at them or that you might want to talk to the person and make it worse for them. Be sensitive to their feelings and reassure them that it is not their fault.

Tell them you can help

Tell your child that you're there to support them, and that there are things that can be done to help them.

Praise them for talking to you

Let them know that they've done the right thing. It's very hard for children to talk about being bullied.

Stay calm

Be careful not to show any anger you might be feeling. Keep calm, try not to interrupt and ask them to tell you about what's happening in their own words. And do not retaliate by contacting the bully or any other people involved.

How to stop cyberbullying situations - What should I do if my child is being cyberbullied?

If your child tells you they're being cyberbullied, the first and most important thing to do is give them your full emotional support. Once you've reassured them that you're going to work together to solve the problem, there are some practical steps you should take:

Ask them not to reply

Cyberbullies are looking for a reaction, so make sure your child knows that by deciding not to reply they are making an active choice not to give power to the bully.

Keep the evidence

Sit down with your child and make a written record of what's happened. Gather evidence by saving texts and printing out emails and screen shots of social network activity.

Block the bullies

Use the built-in tools on social networks and mobile services to block anyone who is cyberbullying your child. That might mean removing them from a 'friends' list or blocking their calls or messages. You can also set restrictions on games consoles to prevent them chatting to gamers they don't know.

Don't deny access to technology

One of the main reasons that young people don't report cyberbullying is because they're worried that their devices could be taken away from them. Moderate your child's use of the device instead.

Taken from **Internet Matters.org** <https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying/#tab-1432798775768-2-0>