



February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping children safe, we would like to remind families about the importance of supporting children to stay safe when they are playing games online. Online gaming can be a fun and positive experience, helping children develop teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving skills. However, it also comes with risks that we all need to be aware of.

Here are a few simple steps that can make a big difference:

- **Talk openly with your child** about the games they play, who they play with, and how they communicate online. Regular conversations help children feel comfortable sharing any concerns.
- **Check age ratings** on games and apps to ensure content is suitable.
- **Use parental controls** on devices, consoles, and home internet to manage screen time, restrict inappropriate content, and limit who can contact your child.
- **Encourage safe communication.** Remind children never to share personal information such as their full name, school, address, or photos with people they only know online.
- **Help them recognise unsafe behaviour.** This includes bullying, pressure to share personal details, or being asked to move conversations to private messaging apps.

What to do if someone online asks, “Do you want to meet up?”

Please remind your child that they should **never agree to meet anyone they only know from online gaming**. If someone asks them to meet in person, they should:

- **Stop the conversation immediately.**
- **Tell you or another trusted adult straight away.**
- **Block and report the player** using the game’s safety tools.

Reassure your child that they won’t be in trouble for telling you — it’s the right thing to do, and adults can help keep them safe.

Where children play also matters.

We strongly encourage families to make sure children are **not playing online games alone in their bedrooms**, especially late at night. Keeping devices in shared family spaces helps:

- Make online activity more visible
- Reduce the likelihood of unsafe conversations
- Support healthier routines around sleep and screen time
- This simple step can make a big difference to children’s wellbeing and safety.

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Make reporting easy. Show your child how to block or report players who make them feel uncomfortable, and let them know they can always come to you if something doesn't feel right.

Working together, we can help ensure that children enjoy the benefits of online gaming while staying safe and confident in the digital world.

If you have any questions or would like further advice, please feel free to get in touch.

Kind regards

Mrs Desai