



Gilbert Colvin
Primary School

Parent Forum – Online Safety at
Gilbert Colvin Primary School

**Keeping Our
Children Safe Online**



What Is Online Safety?

- Protecting children from harmful content, contact, and conduct online.
- Includes knowing what they're accessing, who they're talking to, and how much time they're spending online.
- It's about helping them navigate the digital world responsibly and confidently.

Why Online Safety Matters for Parents

- Children often don't recognise risks online.
- Harmful content, strangers, and peer pressure are easier to access.
- Excessive screen use affects mood, health, and behaviour.

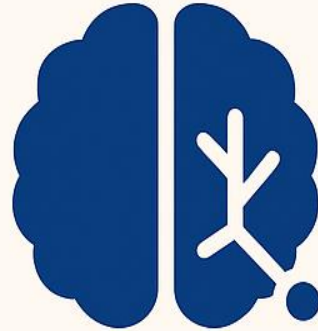


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Your Responsibility as Parents

- Set up parental controls on all devices.
- Know what platforms your child uses and who they interact with.
- Ensure age-appropriate content and apps are used.

THE PROBLEM WITH TOO MUCH SCREENTIME



DOPAMINE



Poor sleep



Anxiety



**Reduced academic
performance**

The Problem with Too Much Screen time

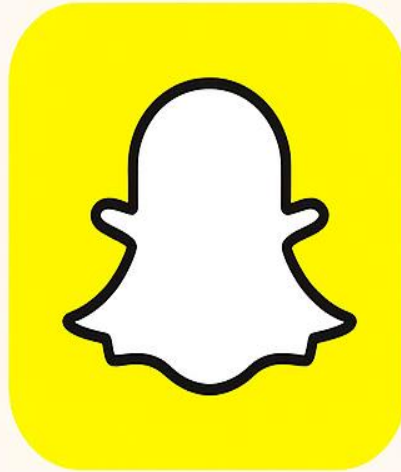
- Apps and games release dopamine, encouraging prolonged use.
- Research links overuse to poor sleep, anxiety, and reduced academic performance.
- ✓ Help children build healthy digital habits early.

POPULAR APPS



WhatsApp

AGE 13+



Snapchat

AGE 13+



Minecraft

AGE 10+



Roblox

AGE 7+



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Popular Apps in Our School Community

- WhatsApp (13+): Group messaging, risk of peer pressure and inappropriate content.
- Snapchat (13+): Disappearing messages, harder to monitor.
- Minecraft (7+): Multiplayer chats can include strangers.
- Roblox (13+): In-game chat and user-created content. Use parental controls.



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Age Limits and Legal Implications

- Apps have age limits for a reason.
- Children may be exposed to inappropriate content or experiences.
- Children underage on platforms can be reported and removed.

New Laws – Greater Accountability

- New UK law will hold online companies accountable.
- Platforms must protect children from harmful material.
- Easier to report abuse. Platforms face penalties for non-compliance.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-68225707#:~:text=In%20very%20serious%20cases%20Ofcom,being%20available%20in%20the%20UK.>



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Online Bullying

- Real cases of pupils being picked on in group chats.
- Real cases of images being shared online.
- Use of derogatory language and exclusion.
- Our school always investigates concerns raised by children or parents.
- Parents and schools must work together to prevent and address these issues.



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Help and Resources Available

- For Parents: <https://www.gilbertcolvin.co.uk/curriculum/online-safety>
- For Pupils: <https://www.gilbertcolvin.co.uk/pupils/staying-safe>

Includes guides, tips, and app information.

Free online safety virtual workshop (NSPCC)

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/free-online-safety-group-workshops/>



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Attendance

Term Dates

School Calendar

School Meals

Wraparound Care

School Ping

Latest News

Class Information

Gilbert Colvin PTA

Fundraising

Local Support and
Information



Apps and Website
Guidance

Parental Engagement at
Gilbert Colvin

How to Raise a Concern

Apps and Website Guidance

At Gilbert Colvin, we are vigilant about the apps and websites children use, ensuring we educate pupils about staying safe online. A common concern in many primary schools, including ours, is children accessing apps that have age restrictions.

For example, **WhatsApp** has a minimum age requirement of 13. Many of the online issues we encounter stem from children using group chats on such platforms, where unkind behaviour can occur. Although these incidents often happen outside school, we take them seriously, addressing concerns promptly, working with parents, and teaching children about the impact of their actions online.

We are committed to helping pupils develop positive online habits through education and awareness. Below, you'll find guidance on some commonly used social media apps, along with their age ratings, to help you support your child's online safety.

Parent Guide to Social Media Apps and Their Age Ratings

Here are some popular social media apps and their recommended age ratings:

- **WhatsApp** – Age 13+: A messaging app allowing group chats. Children may be exposed to inappropriate content or unkind behaviour. It's important to ensure children understand the risks before using it.
- **Instagram** – Age 13+: A photo-sharing app where children can post images, interact with friends, and follow others. Make sure privacy settings are enabled, and guide your child on managing online relationships.
- **Snapchat** – Age 13+: An app that lets users send images and videos that disappear. Discuss the risks of disappearing messages and sharing inappropriate content.




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Clubs

Home Learning

Our Achievements

School Council

 Staying Safe

Staying Safe

At Gilbert Colvin, your safety is our top priority. This page is here to help you learn how to stay safe, both online and in the real world. Remember, if you're ever unsure or feel unsafe, there are trusted adults at school and at home who can help you.

Online Safety

The internet is an amazing place to learn and have fun, but it's important to stay safe online.

Top Tips:

- Never share your personal information (like your full name, address, or passwords) with anyone online.
- Always ask a trusted adult before downloading anything or clicking on links.
- If someone online says or does something that makes you uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult right away.
- Remember: not everything online is true, and not everyone is who they say they are.


Helpful Websites for Online Safety – for Pupils:

- **Childnet**: Great resources for learning how to use the internet responsibly and safely, including videos, games, and tips.
- **Staying Safe Online**: A fun place to learn about internet safety through interactive stories and games.

These resources will help you become confident and savvy in navigating the digital world safely!

Making a report

Look out for these symbols on the post, comment or user profile you want to report



Report video

Timestamp selected *


0 : 00

Provide additional details

6/100

Flagged videos and users are reviewed by YouTube staff 24 hours a day. It takes a week to determine whether they violate Community Guidelines. Accounts are penalized for Community Guidelines violations, and serious or repeated violations can lead to account termination. [Report channel](#)

CANCEL REPORT




< Report

Let us know!

Submit

250




Players Settings Report Help Record

Game or Player?

Which Player?

Type Of Abuse

Short Description (Optional)



We use your feedback to help us learn when something isn't right.


Nudity Violence Harassment

Suicide or self-injury False news Spam

Unauthorised sales Hate speech

Terrorism Something else

Choose a reason for reporting



Choose a reason for reporting this post:

I just don't like it

Nudity or pornography

Hate speech or symbols
Racist, homophobic or sexist slurs

Violence or threat of violence
Graphic injury, unlawful activity, dangerous or criminal organizations

Sale or promotion of firearms

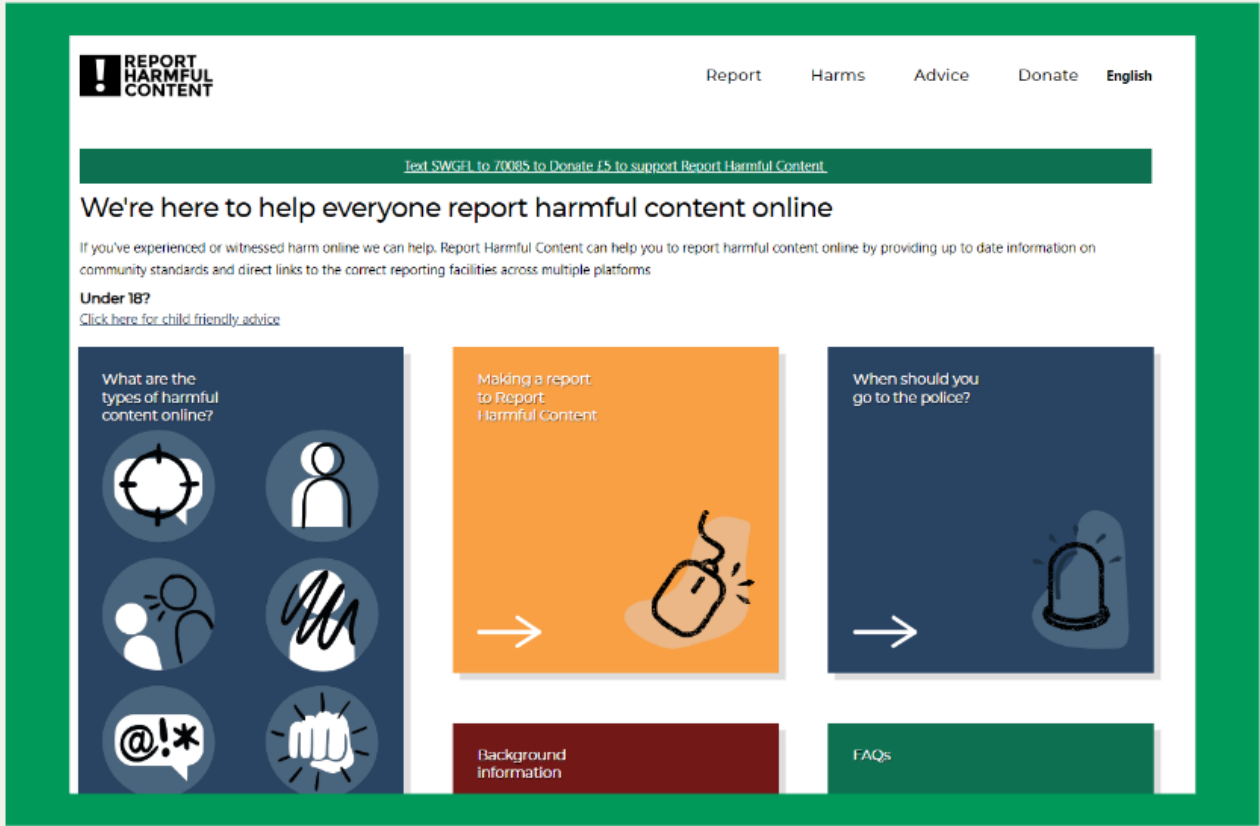
Sale or promotion of drugs

Harassment or bullying

Intellectual property violation
Copyright or trademark infringement

Fill out the form with as much detail as possible and press send to inform the platform's safety team.

Follow up inadequate responses to reports on other services here:



reportharmfulcontent.com

Report any inappropriate contact from an adult to CEOP:

The screenshot shows the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection command) website. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the CEOP logo on the left, the text "Child Exploitation and Online Protection command" in the center, and a "Quick exit" button on the right. Below the header, the main content area has a white background. The central heading asks, "Are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you online?". Below this, it says "Make a report to one of CEOP's Child Protection Advisors". There are three columns of information: "Should I make a report to CEOP?", "What happens when I make a report?", and "How can CEOP help me?". Each column has a brief explanation and an icon. At the bottom, there is a large yellow button that says "Make a report" with a pencil icon. Below the button, there is a line of text: "If you have been a victim of sexual online abuse or you're worried this is happening to someone you know, let us know safely and securely".

CEOP
A National Crime Agency command

Child Exploitation and Online Protection command

If you need to hide this site quickly, just click here

Quick exit

Are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you online?

Make a report to one of CEOP's Child Protection Advisors


Should I make a report to CEOP? →

If you're worried about online abuse or the way someone has been communicating online, let CEOP know.




What happens when I make a report? →

One of our experienced Child Protection Advisors will be there to make sure you get the help that you need.



How can CEOP help me? →

Online abuse affects many children and young people every day, CEOP has helped thousands of people in need of support.



Make a report

If you have been a victim of sexual online abuse or you're worried this is happening to someone you know, let us know safely and securely

ceop.police.uk

Young people can report their nude image being shared online here:

9:24PM

childline.org.uk/remove

**REPORT
REMOVE**

Nude image of you online?
We can help take it down.

MAKE YOUR REPORT

To help you get your image removed we need to know how old you are.
Please select your age using one of the buttons below.

Under 13 years old

13-15 years old

16-17 years old


9:24PM

takeitdown.ncmec.org

Take It Down.
Having nudes online is scary, but there is hope to get it taken down.

This service is one step you can take to help remove online nude, partially nude, or sexually explicit photos and videos taken before you were 18.

Get Started +





Final Thoughts

- You don't need to be a tech expert - just be involved.
- Children need boundaries online as in real life.
- Talk regularly with your child about their online activities.



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Questions & Open Discussion

- Thank you for attending our parent forum today.
- We welcome your questions and thoughts.



Parent Tips and Feedback

- Implement clear rules and boundaries around screen time and device use.
- Define what devices are used for (e.g. one parent's children use tablets ONLY for educational apps, not YouTube).
- Explain why boundaries are being set and if children are not allowed to use devices/apps, the reasons why.
- Treat your children with trust and respect.



Parent Tips and Feedback

- Use Google under supervision – one parent said that she compared going on Google to going outside alone; both would be supervised so that they can make sure the child is safe.
- Filling the void – if your child is not on a device or watching TV, they need to be doing other activities. Have a bank of activities, rota toys, and importantly, allow children time to be bored.
- Do chores together – children enjoy the responsibility and spending time with their parent.
- Find time to spend with children – behaviours improve.
- YouTube – you can turn off autoplay but be aware, suggestions are still at the side of the screen.
- One parent lets their children choose one programme to watch once a week from YouTube and they watch it on the TV rather than a device.



Parent Tips and Feedback

- Parents want school to speak to them first if concerns are raised about children's online activities at home.
- School should always approach the topic with sensitivity. Some parents can feel as though they are being judged when discussing online issues.
- Be aware that parents may be teaching their children to safely navigate apps that have an age rating. There is a lot of pressure for children to access certain apps.
- Snapchat is a minefield...groups shift and change constantly. Tiktok and Whatsapp are easier to monitor.



Parent Tips and Feedback

- Be aware that apps are always evolving.
- As a parent, explore the apps that children commonly use and always explore an app before letting your child use it.
- Parents appreciate that the school gives feedback about any issues that arise.