Online Safety Newsletter

July 2023

Quora

Quora should only be accessed by users that are 13+. Quora is a question-and-answer site. You do need to set up an account to see and post replies.

Due to the nature of the site, users can communicate with strangers, either through the Q&A boards, spaces or via private messages. Private messaging can be turned off in settings and users can block other users.

Quora is a platform where users can post publicly. If your child is using this site, then please ensure your child understands that they should not share personal information. As content is user generated, talk to your child about how information they read online may not be factually correct. Your child may also come across content and topics that are not age appropriate.

You can find out more about the safety and security of Quora here: https://help.quora.com/hc/en-us/sections/115001205786-Safety-Security

Reporting to Social Media Sites

CEOP provide an overview of how to contact several different social media sites: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Reporting-to-social-media-sites-

Safe Searching

There is so much online that we would not want our child to view and even an innocent search can result in inappropriate content being seen. To make our child's online world safer, we would firstly recommend switching on Safesearch settings for the search engine your child uses. **However, as not all search engines allow you to 'lock' Safesearch on (so users may be able to simply turn it off),** we would encourage you to apply further parental controls**.**

For some search engines, for example Google, you can set up a Family management account, which will ensure that Safesearch settings cannot be switched off. We would recommend using a family management account (either Google or Microsoft) so even if your child is using a search engine that cannot be locked, there will at least be an additional level of content filtering provided.

In addition to the above, make sure you have set up appropriate parental controls on your home broadband (and any consoles/ devices/ apps/ websites that your child uses/accesses) for example, to restrict access to explicit websites or access to websites that are not suitable for children.

Please remember that no filtering/ parental control is 100% safe, so it is important that you talk to your child about how they can stay safe online and that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if they need to.

CEOP have produced an article exploring what you could do if your child sees something inappropriate online:

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-to-do-if-your-child-has-seen-something-inappropriate-online/

Further information

Parent Zone have published an article to help you understand searching in more detail:

https://parentzone.org.uk/article/search-engines

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.
Current as of the date released 1.7.23.

Online Challenges

Our children may not have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse all situations yet so it is important to talk to your child about hoaxes and challenges that may appear on the internet. Some challenges are fun and provide no risk, however there will be challenges that are risky/dangerous. Your child may see others complete certain challenges online without being harmed and therefore may want to repeat them **and not consider the potential risks to themselves**. Make sure they know that they should talk to you (or another trusted adult) about what they see online, particularly if they plan to try a challenge or if something scares or upsets them.

We would always advise that if your child has not heard about an online challenge, then do not draw attention to it as this may lead to them searching for it out of curiosity, so just talk about challenges in a general sense. **Reassure your child that challenges that suggest that bad things will happen if they do not complete the tasks are not real.**

The following link will provide you with further information as well as content to help you talk to your child: https://www.internetmatters.org/connecting-safely-online/advice-for-parents/tackling-the-hard-stuff-on-social-media-to-support-young-people/online-challenges-are-they-harmless/

TikTok have also produced this resource to help you talk to your child about challenges and the potential risks: https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en-sg/online-challenges/

Summertime

As we head into the summer holidays, we may find our children our online more or having more screen time. Childnet have produced this blog, which includes how to help your child with managing their screen time: https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/screen-time-boundaries-parents/

You may also be looking for activities to do with your child. Google and Parent Zone have produced some great resources that are free to download. They include a mix of online and offline activities, such as asking them to create a poster to show what they would do if they were worried about something they see online. You can access all the resources here: https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/download

Vinted scams

Have you used Vinted to buy and sell used clothes? Please be aware of potential scams. Vinted have published an article highlighting how scammers might target Vinted users and how you can protect yourself. You can read the full article here:

https://www.vinted.co.uk/help/628-recognise-spoof-and-phishing-messages

Children's Online Safety Test

Virgin Media have created four different Internet Safety Tests around four key topics to help you learn more about the internet and different terms that you might come across such as catfishing. You can access them here:

https://www.virginmedia.com/blog/online-safety/childrens-internet-safety-test/

What is Virtual Reality

Did you know that many VR headsets have a minimum age rating of 13?

Childnet have produced this article detailing what virtual reality is and the considerations that you should consider before using: https://www.childnet.com/blog/virtual-reality-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers/