

ONLINE SAFETY



TIPS FOR PARENTS OF SECONDARY AGED CHILDREN

Keep talking

Stay interested in what they're doing online and discuss what they might have come across. **Don't be afraid to tackle difficult subjects like cyberbullying, and sexting and pornography.** Help them to be critical of things they see online and judge the quality and reliability of online sources. Acknowledge that this is difficult considering how content can be manipulated online to persuade even the most savvy people. Talk together about how to manage some of these challenges and why it is important.

Manage their online reputation

Let them know that anything they upload, email or message could stay online forever. Remind them that they should only post things online that they wouldn't mind you, their teacher or a future employer seeing. There are lots of stories in the media that highlight the importance of online reputation and clearly demonstrate how things that happened years ago can resurface in the future.

Adjust controls

Adjust the **parental controls** on your broadband and internet-enabled devices, depending on your child's age. Your broadband provider can tell you how. Find out how to set up safe search in Google by going to the [Google Safety Centre](#). Remember that at this age they are likely to have friends with unfiltered devices and whilst parental controls and filtering is important this needs to be done alongside dialogue and discussion.



99% of 12-17-year-olds have their own mobile phone
98% use video-sharing platforms
92% have their own social media profiles
75% play games online

*Source: Ofcom Children and parents: media use and attitudes 2022 report

Every Friday, any student at SSSC can attend a drop in Online Safety group to talk to Mrs Hardy and two of our anti-bullying ambassadors with any questions or worries they have. They can also access an online form via the school website, in the Pupil Zone under Anti-Bullying.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the school office who can help direct you to your child's form tutor.