

Online safety at home: Parents and Carers Newsletter PC 5504 Mike Dix, Thames Valley Police 2021

With the majority of young people now learning from home, they will be spending more time online doing their school work, playing games or socialising. Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However it's important we all consider how we can help keep young people safer online during this lockdown, and always. Here's some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safer:

Livestreaming

Live streaming is now a very popular feature of many apps and platforms, and all you need to livestream is an internet enabled device like a laptop or a smart phone.

If your child enjoys livestreaming, you may want to read <u>what is</u> <u>livestreaming</u> to find out more about it and help your child have a positive online experience.

Livestreaming

Over the past few months, many of you may have watched a livestream, or taken part in a video chat. Livestreaming can be a fun and enjoyable online activity for young people.

If you want to know more about livestreaming, the risks and safe use, watch this short video: <u>video</u> or download this <u>handy</u> <u>guide</u>.

More information?

Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP). Their aim is to protect children and young people from sexual abuse online.

For more information, advice and guidance, visit their <u>parents website</u> and download their <u>home</u> <u>activity worksheets</u> for fun, online safety activities to do with your family.

Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online

Have an ongoing conversation: Continue to talk about the apps, games and sites they like to use, and what they like and don't like and any concerns about being online. Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report. For help starting this conversation, read <u>having a conversation with your child</u>.

Make sure they know where to go for support: Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. Remind them that they wont be in trouble at that you are there to help. For a breakdown of report services, visit: Supporting your child with reporting unwanted content online

Tell them about Thinkuknow: Our websites provide open and honest guidance for young people on friends, relationships and the internet, covering topics like dealing with pressure; consent; and getting support when you're worried. Visit our <u>website for 11-13's</u> or our <u>website for 14+</u> for age appropriate information.