

# SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

## Stay Device Safe

Lent Term 2025-2026

### Devices and children: the bigger picture

Children now move between several internet-connected devices each day, phones, tablets, gaming consoles, smart TVs, laptops and wearables. These devices support learning, creativity, social connection and entertainment and for most families they are a normal part of daily life. Because children switch quickly between platforms, online safety is not just about one app; it is about the whole device environment and the habits around it.

Risks can include:

- **Contact risks:** messages or interactions with strangers, and unkind behaviour from others
- **Content risks:** age-inappropriate, harmful, or upsetting material
- **Conduct risks:** oversharing personal information, accidental spending, and too much unsupervised screen time

The most effective approach is usually simple and consistent:

(1) set up the right controls, (2) keep active interest in what your child does online, and (3) have regular, calm conversations so they will come to you early if something goes wrong.



### Device focus: where to prioritise

Start with the devices your child uses most.

#### Phones & tablets

- Use age-appropriate profiles and app limits
- Check privacy/location settings
- Turn off unknown contact requests where possible

#### Gaming consoles

- Restrict chat/messages to known friends
- Apply age ratings to games
- Set spending controls and purchase PINs

#### Smart TVs/streaming & laptops

- Use child profiles and content filters
- Turn off autoplay if needed
- Keep software updated and use safe search

**Golden rule:** Bedroom-free charging overnight supports safer use and better sleep.

### More Top Tips

- **Set controls first, then explain why** (safety, not punishment)
- **Review settings monthly** as apps/devices change
- **Keep devices in shared spaces** when possible
- **Agree screen-time boundaries** (especially before bed)
- **Teach block/report** on games and apps
- **Use strong passwords/PINs** and keep parent controls private
- **Talk often and calmly:** "Anything online made you feel uncomfortable?"
- **Ask for help early** from school if a concern escalates

Get advice on supporting children if they have seen harmful or upsetting content online

[CLICK HERE](#)

How to start the conversation about online safety and how to navigate tricky topics

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