

# VENTURE MAT ONLINE



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## Online Safety Survey

Every year at our Venture MAT schools we give the KS2 children an online safety survey, asking them about their internet usage, the devices they use and about their online safety knowledge.



Over 60% of TLA children and 78% of SIS children spend more than two hours a day online, which shows that we need to make sure we are aware of what the children are doing online and how to keep them safe.



The survey shows that tablets are still the most popular devices, including iPads, Kindle Fires and other android tablets. All tablets have some form of parental controls that can be used by parents to limit things like screen time, apps and purchases. For more information please visit

[www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/](http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/) where you can find specific advice for every device.

Google's Family Link app is another handy app for parents, it's free and can be used to control all android devices, including; phones, tablets and chromebooks.



<https://families.google/familylink/>



Parental controls are a great way to start a conversation with your child about what they feel their limits should be as well as giving you the chance to talk to them about their online safety knowledge. The recent survey shows that over 60% of children talk to their parents about what they like to do online and about online safety. However, only 59% said that parents have set rules for going online.

We asked the children if they kept any devices in their bedrooms, over 70% of the children said they had a tablet in their room and over 60% had a TV. We then asked the children if they used their devices during the night when they were in bed. Worryingly, 50% of the children asked said they do use their devices whilst in bed at night. This is quite concerning as parents may not be



aware of this and it could have a significant impact on children's sleep. Parents can use parental controls to ensure that children are not using their devices at night, or simply remove the devices from the children's bedrooms before they go to sleep.



YouTube is still the most popular app and 88% of children said that watching videos was their favourite thing to do online. YouTube Kids is a safer alternative, however sometimes inappropriate videos can sneak through. For more advice on making YouTube as safe as possible, please visit: [parentzone.org.uk/article/youtube](http://parentzone.org.uk/article/youtube)

The most popular games at SIS are Roblox and Fortnite, whereas for TLA the most popular games are Roblox and Minecraft. You can find advice about all 3 games on the schools' websites. It is important to be aware that the age rating for Fortnite is 12+ and it is played by a lot of adults. Children need to remember that they may be playing with people a lot older than them and may be exposed to inappropriate language.



With all these games there is an opportunity for children to chat to other players, some of which will be strangers. In school we teach children that if they are talking to people they don't know in real life they should never share private information (name, address, birthday etc.), we also advise them to stay in the public chats and to NEVER join a private chat with someone they don't know in real life. For younger children we still encourage them to turn the chat functions off and to not talk to people they don't know in real life.

Children were asked if they play games that are too old for them and 55% said that they did. There are several children that said that they play GTA (Grand Theft Auto), this game is 18+ and is very inappropriate for children, they should not be playing this game.



Parents should be aware of age ratings of games and apps to ensure children are not exposed to

inappropriate content. For more advice about age ratings please visit:  
[parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings](https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings)

## Phishing

Phishing is when a scammer tries to trick someone into giving out information over email. You might receive an email claiming to be from your bank or from a social networking site. They usually include a link to a fake website that looks identical to the real one.



Phishing is becoming a problem that many of us are facing on a regular basis. Government statistics show that in 2022 phishing attacks were the most common cyber security threat.

This article from UK Safer Internet Centre <https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/protecting-yourself-from-phishing-scams-online> has a clear checklist of what you need to check before responding or clicking on any links.

1. Check the email address or phone number the message has come from. In a phishing attack these are often misspelt or have differences from the actual company's name.
2. Look for spelling or grammar mistakes within the message.
3. Messages will often have an urgency to them, or time sensitivity to pressure you into responding.
4. Think about the purpose of the email, would official organisations send an email asking for this information.
5. Check any links or attachments. The URLs (web address) will likely be spelt incorrectly or be different than what you would expect from the organisation it has supposedly come from.

For more information about how to spot phishing attacks and what to do next visit  
<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/phishing-tackle/>

## New Devices for Christmas

Over Christmas many children receive gifts that require going online (phones,



gaming devices, tablets, etc). We have compiled a short checklist to help keep your children as safe as possible whilst using their new devices. Watch this video for a quick run down of advice.

[www.bbc.com/ownit/the-basics/correctly-set-up-childrens-devices?collection=parents](https://www.bbc.com/ownit/the-basics/correctly-set-up-childrens-devices?collection=parents)

1. Research the device, make sure you have an idea of how your child will be using it.

[www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/](https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tech-guide/) is a very useful website which provides helpful information about different devices (smartphones, tablets, games consoles etc.)



2. Have a look at the device before Christmas day and set up security and privacy settings. If you can't set it up before Christmas ensure you sit with your child and set it up together.

[www.internetmatters.org/resources/e-safety-checklist-getting-your-kids-tech-devices-set-up-safe/](https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/e-safety-checklist-getting-your-kids-tech-devices-set-up-safe/) is a helpful guide.

3. Look into the parental controls, the website below is a helpful guide to setting controls up on any device (phones, consoles, tablets etc)

[www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/](https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/)



4. Finally, take time to play on the new device together with your child, talk about what your child is using it for and what they know about staying safe online.



## How to report an incident

If your child tells you or shows you something inappropriate that they have seen online please report it. It could help prevent this from happening to someone else.

The first place it needs reporting is to the APP/ Website/Game it happened on.

If you are worried about online abuse or the way someone has been communicating online let CEOP know. You can report it by visiting [www.ceop.police.uk/](https://www.ceop.police.uk/) or by clicking the button on our website. The website will guide you through how to make a report.



For further advice visit the School's website, visit the [Childline](https://www.childline.gov.uk/) website or call 0800 1111