

## How to report concerns....

Encourage your kids to talk about what they are doing online. Tell them if they feel uneasy, they can talk to you or tell them to talk to an adult that they trust.

They can always call

**Childline on 0800 111.**

Look at what they are doing online.

Save all offensive emails and communications as evidence.

Parents can report concerns to the

**Police on 101**

or if you are worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with your child online, then you can make a report to CEOP's Child Protection Advisors. Their website is [www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre)

Camera phones, digital cameras and web cams are everywhere these days, and kids can be victims of their own inexperience with new technology. Many post pictures, videos or notes online that they later regret. Regularly check what your kids are posting on all social media platforms that they use.

**"Think before you post, because once you do, it's going to be up there forever,"**

break the  
[si]lence.

If you would like to chat through any concerns please email [enquiry@washwoodconnect.com](mailto:enquiry@washwoodconnect.com) with the attention for Miss Lynne Weir Deputy Head and Lead DSL

Or call

**0121 675 7272**

and we will arrange for a call back or even better—arrange for an appointment to chat through your concerns face-to-face



## Keeping your child safe online....

The World Wide Web is the greatest invention since the printing press. Nothing else has so radically shaped culture, media, commerce, entertainment, and communication. **But with these benefits come with great dangers all parents should know about.**



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## 7 Dangers of the Internet for Kids

### 1. Pornography

Repeatedly viewing pornography, especially from a young age, can radically shape one's sexual attitudes and beliefs. Frequent exposures to sexually explicit material is closely linked to more permissive attitudes about sex, such as having multiple sexual partners, "one night stands," cynicism about the need for affection between sexual partners, casual sexual relations with friends, and even mimicking behaviors seen in pornography.

### 2. Sexting

Sexting is sending or receiving nude or partially nude photos or videos through the Internet or cell phones. When teens engage in this risky behaviour, many things can go wrong. These images are easy to forward on to others. At times, these images can be considered "child pornography," and some teens have already been given felony charges.

### 3. Cyberbullying

Bullying happens on both the playground and in the digital world. Hurtful words are exchanged. Rumors start easily and spread quickly. Profiles and e-mails are hacked. And these types of activities are common today.

### 4. Predators

The Internet is a perfect forum to meet new people, but some with malicious intent can use it to "befriend" your child. Internet predators are expert manipulators, able to foster a relationship of dependence with a teenager. Most prey on a teen's desire to be liked, their desire for romance, or their sexual curiosity. Often a predator "grooms" a child through flattery, sympathy, and by investing time in their online relationship. These can then turn into offline relationships or, in extreme cases, opportunities for kidnapping or abduction.

### 5. Gaming

While online and console games can be very fun, educational, and interactive, there are also hidden dangers. Much of the content of some games include sexual content, violence, and crude language. Plus, Internet-connected games enable kids to interact with strangers, some of which can be bad influences or mean your kids harm.

### 6. Social Networks

Social networks like Facebook are very popular online activities. But parents should be aware of the image their teens are projecting as well as the influences they are absorbing online. Despite the 13-year-old minimum,

### 7. YouTube

YouTube is the world's largest video sharing website. But because anyone can upload anything to YouTube, often videos can break the Community Guidelines for YouTube, and even those that do not can still be full of sexual innuendo, provocative content, and foul language.

## Safety Tips for Parents...

- Ask your children if they use a social networking site. Look at the site together or search for it yourself online. Social networking sites often have age limits. If you want to delete a site, work with your child to cancel the account, or contact the social networking site directly.
- Tell your kids not to post a full name, address, phone number, school name and other personal information that could help a stranger to find them. Remind them that photos - like your child in a team sweatshirt - can give away clues to where they live. Ask them not to send photos to people they meet online..
- Learn about privacy settings that allow kids to choose who can view their profiles. Explain that strangers who approach them online aren't always who they say they are - and that it's dangerous to meet them in real life. Tell them to "instant message" only with family or friends they already know off-line.
- When it comes to Internet safety, there's no substitute for parental supervision. Put your computer in a common area of your home, not a child's bedroom, so you can keep an eye on online activities. Go to websites that explain the short-hand kids use in instant messaging, like "POS" ("parent over shoulder") or "LMIRL" ("let's meet in real life"), so you know what's going on.