



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk

Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Tuesday 7th March 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The safety of our children and families is of the utmost importance to us. Therefore, we wanted to take this opportunity to inform you about updates on how to keep your children safe online. It's hard to keep up with the changes in technology and this is crucial if we are going to be able to safeguard our children on the internet.

Top Tips

- Be curious about what your child does online. If your child uses Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok or any other social media platforms, there is a chance they also use third party companion apps.
- Monitor use of social media. Have set times where your child is allowed to use their phone or electronic device.
- Check browsing history on devices.
- Play together, help set healthy limits. Actively find a variety of activities for children to consume online.
- Ensure parental controls are active and up to date.
- Parental controls offered by your home internet provider - UK Safer Internet Centre
- Parental controls - UK Safer Internet Centre

Recently, I was lucky enough to be sent lots of information about different apps and online platforms by Islington's Exploitation and Missing Team with an explanation about each and the risks to children:

Omegle

Free online chatroom advertised as a platform where you can "chat with random strangers online". Omegle pairs users at random allowing them to chat via video or chat. There is no registration process or age verification. The website is identified as a hotspot for grooming children of all ages and investigations have found sexually explicit videos and live streams involving minors as young as 7 or 8.

[What is Omegle? What parents need to know | Internet Matters](#)





St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk

Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Sendit app

Combination app used in conjunction with Snapchat and Instagram where followers can anonymously respond to private messages. The App costs £8.99 and encourages its users to spend money. Anonymous apps leave children more open to cyberbullying, child-on-child abuse and grooming. Due to it being anonymous it is harder to identify perpetrators.

[What is the Sendit app? The risks of companion apps | Internet Matters](#)

Roblox

Roblox can be a safe gaming platform for children of all ages, however, it also has a dark side which is often hidden. Some of the risks in relation to Roblox include; unknown adults using the chat room to contact children for the purposes of grooming, exposed to sexualised avatars, inappropriate language being bypassed and used within the game.

[Parent Alert: Is Roblox Safe for Kids? Watch Out for These 4 Dangers | Defend Young Minds™](#)

Addiction

Gaming addiction is now recognised by the World Health Organisation as a clinical disorder. There's are increasing concerns around children as young as 8 developing addictions to pornography hugely impacting psychological and developmental well-being. Pornography and inappropriate content online is only a click away.

[CARE for Online Safety | CARE](#)

If you would like to discuss any of this further to contact Mrs Slack, who is the computing lead for the school.

Kind regards,

Mrs Hodgson

