

Online Safety Newsletter – October 2025



Online Safety act

As you may be aware, the UK's Online Safety Act 2023 has been implemented to strengthen protections for children and users of online services. The changes are significant and will affect how many websites, apps, and platforms operate.

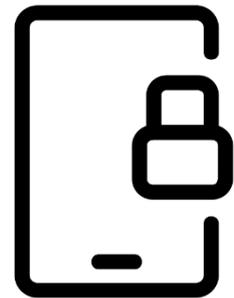
Key changes:

- Services must protect children from harmful or age-inappropriate content.
- Age limits and checks will be more strictly enforced.
- Clearer, faster reporting of harmful content.
- Ofcom can fine companies that don't comply.

What This Means for Families

The Act should reduce risks online, but children still need guidance. At home, you can help by:

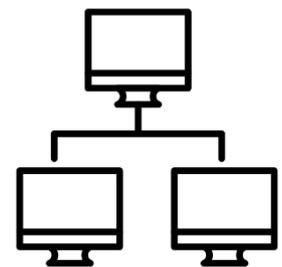
- Checking app/game age ratings.
- Using parental controls and filters.
- Talking openly about what your child sees online.
- Reminding them to come to you if something feels wrong.
- Setting screen time limits.



VPNs

A VPN (virtual private network) can hide a child's activity and make it look like they're in a different country — which means it can bypass platform age-checks, filters and some protections introduced by the Online Safety Act.

What to do: check devices for VPN apps e.g. NordVPN and Surfshark.



If you have any questions or concerns regarding online safety, please do not hesitate to contact our school.