

Online Safety Newsletter – November 2025

Please take the time to update yourself on the most recent developments regarding online safety.



Your guide to group chats

Group chats are a form of communication involving multiple users that happen on messaging platforms such as WhatsApp. Users can create a group, change the name or group photo, add other members, start video or voice calls and post photos/videos/GIFS.

Who can be in a group chat?

Anyone can be in a group chat as long as they are a user on that platform. Most platforms have age restrictions (usually 13+) but there are not always age verification processes in place.

Risk of Group Chats



- **Bullying.** Many young people have reported being left out, made fun of in chats or in chats they weren't a part of. Children falling out in group chats is the most common reason for conflict we see in school.
- **Image sharing.** Children may feel pressured to share imagery of themselves. Even if they share images with one person, they have lost control of it and it can be shared again.
- **Stranger interaction.** Children may not know everyone in a group chat, potentially exposing them to harmful interactions with older teens or adults.
- **Inappropriate content.** Violent and obscene images can easily be shared and set to vanish. This will expose children to content that may deeply affect them.

What can be done to safeguard them?

- Consider the age restrictions on common apps - usually 13+.
- Ensure they understand which information should be kept private.
- Talk about appropriate behaviour towards others online.
- Discuss the risks of sharing revealing or even nude images.
- Set family rules and screentime limits.
- Regularly check-in with your child and their device – have a look through it together.

Italian Brainrot

Italian Brainrot is a viral trend featuring AI-generated characters in videos, originally from TikTok but now also on YouTube, Instagram, and Roblox. While much of it is silly and entertaining, some content may include inappropriate language or material not suitable for children.

Parents may wish to monitor their child's exposure to this trend.

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