Meeting an Online Friend

Like people from previous generations wanted to meet penpals, children may want to meet up with an online friend, especially as they get older and start to change their social groups.

Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. However, risk is greatly reduced if a parent or carer is informed, aware and present.

Encourage your child to be careful with new friends and tell you about their plans.

Make sure they know to tell you if someone acts inappropriately towards them online – it may be sexual chat or being asked to do something that makes them feel uncomfortable or someone being insistent on meeting up.

This can be reported using the CEOP report abuse button.



Instant Expert!

UK Safer Internet Centre has information, advice and resources on all online topics.

[www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

Parentport helps you to report unsuitable online content, including advertising and games.

[www.parentport.org.uk](http://www.parentport.org.uk)

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILDREN ONLINE

CEOP is where adults or children can report actual or attempted abuse online

[www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

NSPCC has information and advice for parent

[www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/)

Stay Safe On-line

The internet is a positive and important force in modern life. It helps young people study, learn, find work, meet new friends and more. There are risks.

These are the main types:

**Content**

Risks include content that is not age appropriate, that might disturb or upset, that is biased or untrue.

**Commercial**

Risks include advertising, in-game spending, gathering personal data, spam ad scam emails and more.

**Conduct**

Risks include cyberbullying, risky or illegal behaviour, and posting inappropriate content online.

**Contact**

Describes someone targeting another person online in order to commit a crime or abuse that person.

Starting the Conversation

Starting the conversation can be the hardest thing ...

**Content**

What websites do you like to visit? Do you know what to do if you see bad content on them?

**Commercial**

Do you keep your personal information safe?

What is personal information? Can you tell me?

**Contact**

How do you know you friends online are real friends? If you wanted to meet up with someone what would you need to do first?

How to Help Your Children Stay Safe NSPCC

It can be hard to know how to talk to your child about online safety. From setting up parental controls to advice on sexting, online games and video apps The NSPCC can help you to understand the risks and keep your child safe.

Talk about the internet with your child. Say what your concerns are and listen to their worries. Take them seriously.

Use filtering software, but do not rely on it. Turn on filters and blocks but also explain why they are there and why they matter.

Make rules together and agree to them. Everyone in the family has a part to play in keeping the household safe online.

Make sure your child knows what to do. For example; turn off the screen, tell an adult they trust and use online reporting facilities.

Make sure you know what to do. Online risks can happen at any age! Make sure YOU know what to do if things go wrong online.

If you need further guidance in supporting your child online, please do not hesitate to contact the school