

Parent and Carer Digital Safety Newsletter

Back to school & college scams

The start of a new school/college year brings excitement, but also opportunities for scammers to exploit new students. From housing fraud to financial scams, young people are increasing targets.

Common student scams:

- Tuition fee fraud – Someone pretends to help you pay your fees but steals your money.
- 'Fake officials' phone scam – Someone calls you pretending to be from the police, bank, university or another official company.
- Student loans company and tax refund phishing emails – Fake emails asking for your details to steal money.
- Online tickets for gigs – Fake websites selling tickets for concerts or events.
- Money mule scams – Someone asks you to move money through your bank account for them.
- Free Wi-Fi – Fake Wi-Fi networks that steal your information.
- Social media scams – Messages, adverts or links that trick you into giving personal information.

Watch out for scammers

Fraudsters use many tricks to try and steal money or information from students. Here are some warning signs.

Be careful if:

- You get a message or call out of nowhere, even if it looks like it's from someone you know.
- An offer sounds too good to be true
- You are asked to share personal information.
- The message says you must act quickly
- There are spelling or grammar mistakes.
- You are told to keep it a secret.
- There is little or no contact information.

For further advice and what to do, click [here](#).



YouTube dangers

YouTube can be fun and educational, but it also has risks that parents should know about.

- Inappropriate content – not all videos are made for children, and they may stumble onto scary, violent or adult material.
- Unsafe challenges – some viral trends encourage dangerous stunts that can cause injury or death.
- Online strangers – comment sections and live chat can expose children to strangers with harmful intentions.
- Excessive screentime – hours of autoplay videos can lead to poor sleep and weaker focus in school.
- Radicalisation – algorithms will promote content that is getting the most traffic, some content can be very extreme.

Safety tips:

- Encourage younger children to watch YouTube Kids.
- Monitor what your children are watching and talk about what's inappropriate.
- Apply restricted mode – this can filter out inappropriate content.
- Check privacy settings – ensure they are set to private so not to share videos with public and comments are restricted.

Online safety for parents' webinars

If you haven't yet signed up for the Digital Safety for Parents webinar, there are two dates still available. During the session you will learn about:

- The risks & dangers children face online
- Social media & gaming
- Healthy screentime
- How to set up parental controls
- Privacy & locations settings

[14th October 18:00](#)

[19th January 12:30](#)



For more information on online safety, visit our [Staying Safe Online website](#).