

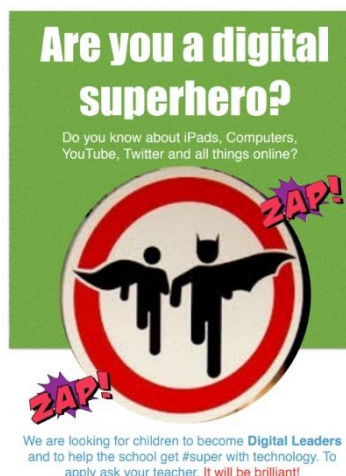
Holy Spirit Online Safety Newsletter - October

Welcome to the first edition of Holy Spirit's Online Safety newsletter!

We understand that being online is a big part of every child's life. Our aim is to keep you up-to-date with the latest news to keep all our children safe online. If your child is experiencing any issues when they are online, then please contact school so we can address any areas of concern.



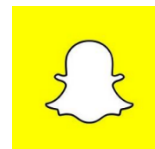
We are looking for a group of responsible, willing children (from Years 4, 5 and 6) to be our school Digital Leaders. Miss Devaney will be introducing this in assembly on Friday, because she needs help!



Snapchat Update

We are aware that some of our children are using the Snapchat App. Please see below the most recent information regarding the safe use of this APP.

What is Snapchat? Snapchat is an app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos.



You must be 13+ to sign up.

Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time period e.g. 10 seconds. Users can also upload snaps to stories which then disappear after 24 hours.

Snapchat Family Centre – NEW

Snapchat have introduced a new in-app tool called Family Centre. Family Centre will allow you to see who your child is friends with on Snapchat and who they have been communicating with (you will not be able to see the contents of conversations). You will also be able to see who they are friends with on Snapchat, report accounts confidentially and view resources to help you start conversations with your child about online safety. Snapchat are also planning on adding additional tools within Family Centre in the future. You can find out more about Family Centre here:

<https://snap.com/en-GB/safety-and-impact/post/family-center>

Safety tips

It is important to talk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and make sure that they know that they should always talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns. Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up on Snapchat and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary. We would recommend you explore Snapchat with your child and suggest why certain options are safer, for example, setting your account so only friends (rather than everyone) can see your content and only those you are friends with can contact you.

- <https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/article/privacy-settings2>

You can find out more about Snapchat using the following links:

- <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/snapchat-safety-ahow-to-guide-for-parents/>
- <https://snap.com/en-GB/safety/safety-center>

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WhatsApp Update

We are aware that lots of our children use WhatsApp to communicate with each other outside of school. We have also experienced incidents where children are being upset because they are not included in a group that has been set up by a member of their class. Please discuss with your children these new updates and encourage them to be aware that being unkind on WhatsApp can, and will, have a detrimental effect on others.

WhatsApp will be releasing the following new Privacy features soon:

1. **Leave Groups Silently:** you will be able to exit a group privately so instead of the whole group being notified, only the admins will be.
2. **Choose Who Can See When You're Online:** WhatsApp are introducing the ability to select who can and can't see when you're online.
3. **Screenshot Blocking for View Once Messages** You can read more about these new features here: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/>

Is your child playing or watching others play games online?

Your child could be using Twitch, Steam, Roblox, YouTube etc to access games or watch others play. We need to make sure that what they are viewing is appropriate for them. It is important to talk to your child to see what they are interested in so you can have a look first to see if they are appropriate. For example, there are games that may appear to be appropriate but are actually horror/ survival games and characters can turn more sinister as the game progresses. It is important to remember that children may be playing the game, watching videos of it on sites such as YouTube or playing replicated versions on Roblox for example.

More information <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/onlinegames/>

Is your child ready for social media?

Childnet have produced this article answering your questions around social media, such as when should I allow my child to join social media? The article also outlines some alternative sites that have been created for younger children. You can read the article here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-getting-started-on-social-media/>

