

# Newhaven School Parent E-safety Guide

## Digital Safety during COVID-19

- The impact of COVID-19 means that on occasion it may be necessary to stay at home and we are likely to be spending an increased amount of time online.
- The online world is a necessity for many children in accessing school work and it delivers huge benefits, not least in enabling us to stay connected to family and friends during this period. However, many parents may feel concerned about the content their children are accessing.
- Although rare, there is a risk that increased online activity and feelings of stress and isolation may be exploited by negative influences and online groomers of all kinds to target vulnerable children and young people directly.
- An understanding of digital safety will help parents and carers safeguard loved ones from a range of harms, whether that's child sexual exploitation, fraud, or extremist influences seeking to radicalise vulnerable people.
- Extremists may use the COVID-19 outbreak to promote hateful views, for example through conspiracy theories blaming a particular group for the virus, or through spreading misinformation regarding these groups' responses to it.

## What steps can I take to keep my child safe online?

- If you have downloaded new apps or bought new technology to help stay connected at this time, remember to review and adjust privacy and safety settings if you or your child is signing up to a new online service.
- The Government has encouraged Internet Service Providers to allow parents to easily filter content to put you in control of what your child can see online.
- You can switch on family friendly filters to help prevent age inappropriate content being accessed on devices in your home.

## Further Information

The UK Safer Internet Centre provides guidance on how to do this [here](#).

Internet Matters has also provided step by step guides on how to setup parental controls [here](#).

Keeping safe online – know the risks can be found [here](#).

The NSPCC also offers advice and guidance for parents [here](#).