

## Online Reputation

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Young people are growing up online and may be posting information about themselves which in the past would have been written in a secret diary. These thoughts, opinions, actions and activities provide a window into their lives. The internet provides a **permanent** of the highs and lows which the child faces and if this is not controlled carefully, may be accessible to future employers, universities and friends. We encourage the children to, “**think, before you share**”.

## Overuse and Addiction

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With limitless information, endless games and the ability to escape the real world, the relationship between young people and the internet can become unhealthy. This can affect their behaviour, their friendships, their eating and sleeping. The amount of time spent online, should be carefully monitored to ensure it does not become unhealthy. Young people can be someone else online, so if they are unhappy in the real world, they may want to spend more time online.

As a parent or carer, you should be alert to the amount of time your young people are spending online and aware of the issues that might be causing a dependency.

## Useful Websites

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Below, you will find a selection of useful websites that provide information for parents, carers and children:

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)  
[www.digizen.org](http://www.digizen.org)  
[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)  
[www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/ukcis](http://www.gov.uk/ukcis)  
[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

## Charlestown Safeguarding Team

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Mr G Ball is our Safeguarding Lead, with Miss Denham, Mrs Morrison and Mrs Peters, as our Deputy Safeguarding Leads.

## Charlestown eSafety Lead

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Mr P Higginbotham

**To speak to one of the team, you can call the school on: 0161 740 3529.**



# eSafety Information

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# Risks your child may face online

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## My Child Online

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As with the real world, risks are present online, so it is important we teach children to navigate those risks.

- Cyber bullying
- Grooming
- Inappropriate websites
- Losing control of pictures and videos
- Online reputation
- Overuse and addiction

## Cyber Bullying

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This is when someone uses online methods to bully someone else. As the internet and technology are everywhere, this type of bullying can affect young people at home as well as school. It can be hard to identify who the bully is as the number or email address can be false, and anonymous posts can be presented online. The nature of this bullying means that often the bully doesn't realise they are actually bullying. However, cyber bullying can be evidenced, texts and emails can be saved and posts screenshotted. This proof enables the bully to be caught.

If your child has been cyber bullied, make sure:

1. Not to respond to the bully
2. Block contact with the bully

3. Save communications, as evidence.
4. Report the incident to the website, school, or if harassment is persistent, the Police.

## Grooming

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Sadly, adults attempt to make contact with children online. This may be on Social Media and games, amongst other places. They could pretend to be someone else or show an interest in the child.

It is important for children to understand that people like this exist and they should **never** do anything online or offline that they are uncomfortable with.

Grooming is a process of manipulating a child to gain control over them. As parents and carers, you should be approachable so that if your child is concerned about something, they know they can talk to you.

**If you are concerned about someone's behaviour towards your child online, report this directly to CEOP, at [www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)**

## Inappropriate Websites

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The internet is open for anyone to post anything. Therefore, sometimes, children come into contact with things they wish they hadn't, or which is inappropriate for their age. Parental controls can help to reduce the risk of your child seeing age inappropriate sites, but parental filters are not 100% effective and material can slip through. You should encourage your child to

tell you if they see something online which they are uncomfortable with, or upsets them.

If you think the content may be illegal, like inappropriate images of children, you can report it directly to the Internet Watch Foundation, at [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk). It is the IWF's job to remove these images from the internet.

## Losing Control Of Pictures and Videos

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Pictures and videos, once posted anywhere, can be copied, shared and spread at great speed. What may have started as being posted for a few friends to see, can very quickly end up in the hands of the entire school and beyond. Some young people have posted or sent pictures of themselves to a boyfriend or girlfriend, and these have then been shared on. Some of the main risks with this type of image being in the wrong hands, can lead to:

1. Bullying, about the content of the pictures
  2. Distress, knowing that others people may be looking at personal pictures can be very upsetting
  3. Blackmail, if the images end up in the hands of someone with bad intentions, they could be used to manipulate the child
  4. Reputation, once something is online, it is very difficult to remove and becomes part of the child's "**Digital Footprint**", which could affect them in the long-term.
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