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. But 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 also 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

Parentport helps you report unsuitable online content, including advertising and games. www.parentport.org.uk

Know the Net for advice, quizzes, tests, online etiquette, password advice, and more www.knowthenet.org.uk

CEOP is where adults or children can report actual or attempted abuse online: www.ceop.police.uk

Oxfordshire Early Intervention Service
Youth Engagement and Opportunities
County Hall, 3rd Floor
Oxford OX1 1ND
☎ 01865 328908
🖱 anti-bullying@oxfordshire.gov.uk

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Oxfordshire Early Intervention

Supporting young people online

oxme.info/anti-bullying

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

How parents and carers can help the children and young people in their care stay safe online

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 and scam emails and more.

Conduct risks include cyberbullying, risky or illegal behavior, and posting inappropriate content online.

Contact describes someone targeting another person online in order to commit a crime/abuse that person.

Starting the conversation

Parents tell us that 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?

Conduct
Do you know what sort of things are illegal if you do them online? Have you done the quiz at accidentaloutlaw.knowthenet.org.uk?

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

How to help the children in your care stay safe

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

Use filtering software, but don't 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.