



5th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As young people spend more time interacting with each other online, it is important to help them recognise behaviours which can spread harmful content. The growth of online abuse – or “Trolling” as it is often called – can have real-world consequences so equipping young people with the tools to address these issues is essential.

Being exposed to online hatred can have a real impact on young people's wellbeing. It can also normalise discrimination, hateful attitudes and behaviours towards certain groups of people.

How are young people targeted by online hate speech?

- Trolling – social media posts which contain hurtful words or images.
- Messaging – messages containing hate speech/images can be directly or indirectly sent to the victim.
- Online Harassment – can include repeated attempts to send unwanted communications which cause distress or fear.
- Baiting –this is used in bullying to intentionally make a person angry by saying or doing something which annoys them.
- Virtual Mobbing – when a number of people use social media or messaging to make comments about another person.

There are many ways you can protect your child from online hatred and trolling:

- Take an active interest in how your child socialises on and offline.
- Make sure they know to treat others as they want to be treated.
- Advise them to report threatening content.
- Ensure they are aware of the community guides on the platforms they use, such as Instagram, Tik Tok and Snapchat.
- Ask them if they would be able to recognise online hate.

If your child receives any hateful messages online, please encourage them to block the perpetrator immediately and report it to school, the Police, or the website admin. For more information please go to www.internetmatters.org/report-issue/

Support for parents/carers:

- [Net Aware](#)
In partnership with O2. Your guide to the latest apps, games and social media sites kids are using.
- [Online safety advice](#)
Whether you're an online expert or you're not sure where to start, our tools and advice will help you keep your child safe.

- [Parent Info](#)
A website for parents about life online.
- [ThinkUKnow](#)
A website from National Crime Agency's CEOP Command about keeping children and young people safe on the internet.
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
Promoting the safe and responsible use of technology for young people.
- [Internet Matters](#)
A site to help empower parents and carers to keep children safe in a digital world.

Wishing you all a safe weekend.

Kind regards,

Davison Safeguarding Team