

Content

AGES 5 TO 7

Your child will more than likely be aware that some online content is rude, upsetting or generally inappropriate for them. Use search engines with them, demonstrating safe search settings as well as reading content descriptions on apps before installing them. Get them into the habit of always doing this.

If your child has seen something inappropriate, discuss it with them and deal with it together.

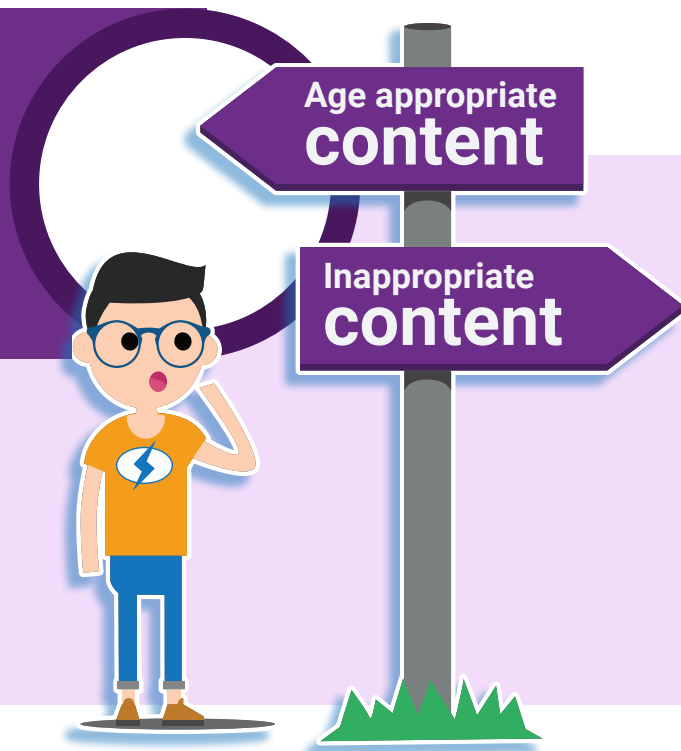
Did You Know?

Over
45%
of children who access
live stream content have
witnessed violence or hatred
content (NSPCC, 2017)



- There are no 100% safeguards we can put in place to protect our children from inappropriate content. For this reason, children must be supported in becoming informed and empowered online users.
- Ratings are there to protect children from harm. Ignoring ratings can have long lasting damaging effects. For example, distorted understanding of healthy relationships with others.





The possibilities that the online world gives to us all for improving our lives, in terms of knowledge, processes, efficiency, convenience and communication, are amazing.

However, controlling the content that we and, most importantly, our children have access to can be challenging. There are no guaranteed safeguards that adults can put in place to prohibit inappropriate content being accessed.

Therefore, the key to safeguarding our children is to support them in becoming informed and empowered users of the online world, recognising potential risks and dealing with inappropriate content.

AGES 7 TO 11

Build on the key points in ages 5 to 7.

By now, your child will quite likely be fully immersed in the digital world. Peer pressure will have a stronger effect on your child than before, regarding content, use of digital devices and possible interactions online. Your child may very well want to play collaborative games online, download apps that their friends have and search for content that is popular among their peers.

Don't simply stop your child from doing what their peers are doing but explain any decisions you make regarding accessing content, apps or devices. Remember the tips about being open: if you don't give a child a clear explanation, they won't recognise your decisions as being justified or fair.

Your child will have more developed opinions of others and the world, which can have drawbacks when using social media. Whether your child is using social media or simply commenting on educational sites, monitor the comments they post and how they interact. Obviously, discourage any negative language and over-familiar comments, including personal information.

Ratings are intended to protect children against exposure to content that will affect their mental health and well-being. Seeing explicit material online is upsetting and changes the way children view relationships and other people.

81%

of children aged
8 - 11 use YouTube.
(Ofcom, 2017)

71%

of 5-7s use YouTube.
(Ofcom, 2017)

