

December 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Christmas period is upon us and we just wanted to offer some support and advice to you about how to support your children online.

Christmas is a time when lots of young people receive devices that are able to access social media such as tablets, smartphones, games consoles and laptops.

If these devices are new to young people, they can often not secure the settings sufficiently and this can unfortunately put them at risk.

There are programmes and applications they can access such as Netflix and Amazon where they can watch programmes that are often not age appropriate and not suitable for them to watch. Games consoles are often played by young people where games are a classified 18 certificate. Please ensure you check the settings of devices and monitor what children are watching and who they are talking to and ensure it is age appropriate for them to be accessing.

<u>www.thinkuknow.co.uk</u> is an excellent website that can help and support you as a family stay safe online. There also many 'think you know videos' you can watch on YouTube that will show you how to manage settings and secure your child's online world so any risk is reduced and where possible completely eliminated.

We have also attached several documents that can support you to monitor the online behaviour of children and young people so we hope you find them useful.

If you believe you have an issue over the festive period with online safety, please call 101 and speak to Cheshire Police for advice.

Have a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends.

Kind regards

Ruth Ball

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