



CRESTWOOD
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

September 2023

Online Safety Newsletter

Broadband set up

Have you set up appropriate settings on your broadband / Wi-Fi? Most broadband providers include parental controls for free as part of their broadband package, which means that any device that connects to your Wi-Fi will be protected by any controls you set up. Find out how to set yours up here:

Sky:

<https://www.sky.com/help/diagnostics/sky-broadband-buddy/skybroadband-buddy>

BT:

<https://www.bt.com/help/security/how-to-keep-your-family-safe-onlinewith-bt-parental-controls-an>

Talk Talk:

<https://community.talktalk.co.uk/t5/Keeping-your-Family-Safe/bd-p/kfshub>

Virgin:

<https://www.virginmedia.com/broadband/parental-control>

Remember, children may have devices that use mobile data, so they won't always be connected to your wifi. Ensure you set up parental controls on these devices too.

Further information:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guideand-resource/parental-controlsoffered-by-your-home-internetprovider>

What do you know about Omegle?

Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to Omegle.com and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it's important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site.

National online safety is an organisation which believes in giving parents and carers the information they need to have an informed conversation about online safety with their children. They have put together [a comprehensive guide](#) to the possible dangers to children of using Omegle, and information on how you can keep your children safe.



How can the Law Help me?

Whilst we wait for the Online Safety Bill to be passed, which will hopefully improve Online Safety, there are certain laws already established to help protect us online. For example, in the UK we have the Malicious Communications Act 1988 that states it is an offence to send a communication that conveys an indecent or grossly offensive message or a threat. We also have the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, which covers threatening behaviour or harassment online.



Report Harmful Content

have put together a list of laws that are relevant to online behaviour here:

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/when-should-you-go-to-the-police/>

If you have any safeguarding concerns around your child's online usage, please contact either your child's tutor, year leader or Mr Nash, our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) tim.nash@crestwood.hants.sch.uk or Mr Whittick, the deputy DSL - andrew.whittick@crestwood.hants.sch.uk