



Online Safety Newsletter July 2025

Sherwood Junior School Online Safety Newsletter

In This Issue

- Secondary School Transition
- Online Privacy
- Nintendo Switch 2
- Zepeto
- Sprunki
- Omegle
- Conversation Starters
- Contact us

Secondary School Transition



Is your child starting **Secondary School this September?**

This is an exciting but sometimes challenging time, especially when it comes to increased online independence. Children often get their first mobile phone around this age, which means more access to messaging apps, social media, and online gaming.

To help support you, **Internet Matters** has created a range of **tools and resources**, including a **Transition Parent Guide** to help you navigate online safety during this key stage.

Explore the guide here: [Moving to Secondary School – Online Safety Guide](#)

Sherwood Junior School Website

A reminder that on our website you can find lots of guides to help you with games and apps. We have added a brand new guide full of helpful tips for lots of different apps! Head to our website and find the [Online Safety](#) section under parents or children.



Online Privacy



Online Privacy: Helping Your Child Stay Safe on the Internet

As our children grow up in a digital world, it's more important than ever to help them understand how to stay safe and protect their personal information online. Every photo, message, or detail they share creates something called a *digital footprint* — a trail of information that others can see. The good news is, with a little guidance and the right settings, we can help our children keep their information private and secure.

What Are Privacy Settings?

Privacy settings are tools found in most apps, websites, and online games. They allow you and your child to decide who can see the things they post or share — whether it's just friends, family, or the whole world.

How Can Parents and Carers Support Online Privacy?

Here are some simple and effective ways you can support your child's online privacy:

Talk Regularly With Your Child

- Help them understand what counts as *personal information* — like their full name, home address, phone number, school name, passwords, and even photos in school uniform.
- Encourage them to think before they post. Could that picture or message give away where they are right now? Is it something they would want a stranger to see?

Set Privacy Settings Together

- Go through each app, game, or website your child uses and check the privacy settings.

- Look for settings that control: Who can see their posts or photos. Who can message them or comment. Whether their location is being shared. Who can tag them or share their content.
- These settings can change when apps are updated — it's a good idea to check them regularly.

Be a Role Model

- Children learn by watching us. Think about your own posts — do you share photos of your child that include their school badge or mention where you are?
- Show your child how you use privacy settings to keep your own information safe.

Teach Safe Password Habits

- Help your child create strong, unique passwords for each of their accounts.
- Remind them to never share their passwords with anyone, even friends.

Search Their Name Together

- Try typing your child's name into a search engine. See what information comes up and talk about what they might want to change or remove.
- If they've posted something they regret or no longer want online, help them take it down or adjust who can see it.

Want to Learn More?

Here are some helpful resources for learning more about keeping your child's online life safe and private:

- [Childline: Taking Care of Your Digital Footprint](#)
- [UNICEF: Online Privacy Tips for Parents](#)
- [CEOP Education: Privacy Settings Guide](#)

Nintendo Switch 2



Nintendo Switch 2 – What Parents Need to Know

The **Nintendo Switch 2** was released last month and introduces a new communication feature that parents should be aware of.

New Feature: GameChat

GameChat is now included with a Nintendo Switch Online membership. It allows up to **12 players** to communicate during gameplay. Key features include:

- **Voice chat** using the built-in microphone
- **Screen sharing**, even if players are in different games
- **Video chat**, if a compatible external camera (sold separately) is connected

If your child is using GameChat, ensure they understand how to **block and report other users** if needed.

 **Learn more:** [Nintendo GameChat](#)

Parental Controls

Nintendo provides a **free Parental Controls app** that can be linked to your child's console. This app allows you to:

- View a **report** of which games your child plays and for how long

- Set **restrictions** based on **PEGI age ratings**
- **Limit communication** features, including GameChat
- Approve who your child (under 15) can use GameChat with

➔ **More info:** [Set up Parental Controls](#)

Understanding Age Ratings

Games on the Nintendo Switch are rated by **PEGI** (Pan European Game Information). PEGI ratings reflect the **age suitability**, not the difficulty of a game. However, **user-generated content and in-game chat features are not covered by PEGI ratings**—this includes games like **Roblox**.

➔ **Learn more:** [PEGI Ratings](#)

More Support for Parents

Need more guidance on safe gaming?

➔ **Helpful resource:** [Gaming – CEOP Education for Parents](#)

Zepeto



ZEPETO is a social networking app with an age rating of **13+**. Users can:

- Create and customise their own **avatars**
- Design **virtual rooms**
- Interact and **chat with other users online**

Key Risks to Be Aware Of

Because ZEPETO includes social interaction, there are common online safety risks:

- **Exposure to inappropriate content**

- **Online bullying or unwanted contact**
- **In-app purchases**, which can add up quickly

Privacy & Safety Settings

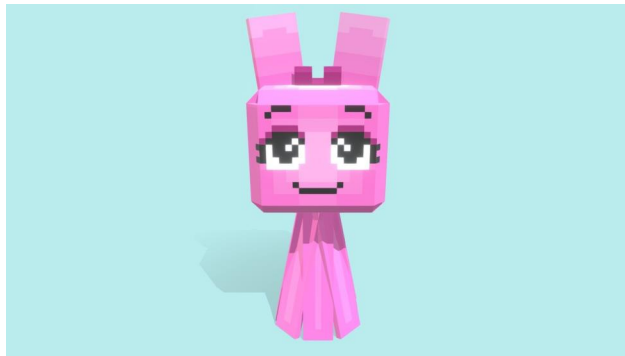
While **ZEPETO does not offer dedicated parental controls**, users can adjust some privacy and content settings themselves. For example, they can:

- Limit **who can send direct messages**
- Control **who can see their posts or interact with them**

It's important to speak with your child about these settings and review them together.

ZEPETO provides a helpful guide for parents and guardians: [ZEPETO Guardian's Guide](#)

Sprunki



What is Sprunki? 🎮

Sprunki is a free, browser-based **music creation game**—a fan-made mod inspired by *Incredibox*. In it, players drag and drop colorful characters onto a stage; each character adds a unique beat, melody, or vocal layer. As you mix and match, you build your own musical tracks and even save or share your creations with the community.

Is Your Child Playing *it*?

If your child is playing **Sprunki**, it's important to know that **multiple versions** of this game exist across different platforms. Some versions may be harmless, while others may contain **disturbing content**.

⚠️ For example, one version of Sprunki includes a clear warning:

“WARNING: This game contains disturbing images and scenes of explicit violence and gore.”

This makes it essential to:

- Check **which version** your child is playing
- Review the **content and age appropriateness** before allowing access

More information is available here: [Sprunki – eSafety Guide](#)

Omegle

Although the original **Omegle** website has shut down, **Ome.tv** and other **Omegle-style “random video chat” platforms** still exist—and are just as concerning.

These sites connect users with **strangers from around the world via live video**. Many contain **explicit content, adult language, and unsafe interactions**, even when the site claims to be moderated.

Ome.tv and similar platforms are not suitable for children. Ome.tv itself states that it is intended **for adults only**.

Why These Platforms Are Risky for Children:

- No control over **who they are connected to**
- High risk of **exposure to inappropriate or harmful content**
- Possibility of **grooming or exploitation**
- Many lack effective **age verification or safety filters**

Learn more about **randomised chat forums and messaging apps** from the NSPCC [here](#).

Conversation Starters



Struggling to Talk About Online Safety? Try This Conversation Starter

If you're unsure how to begin talking to your child about online safety, try using a real-life style scenario to get the conversation flowing.

Scenario: What Should Amira Do?

Amira and her classmates have a **WhatsApp group chat**. One evening, she notices that some group members are sharing **unkind jokes and memes** about another student, Leo — who isn't in the group.

At first, the comments seem playful, but they quickly become mean-spirited. Amira feels uncomfortable, but she's not sure what to do.

Use this scenario to ask your child:

- ? *"What would you do if you were Amira?"*
- ? *"How could I help you if something like this happened?"*

What Amira Could Do:

1. **Don't join in.** Staying silent is better than adding to the problem.
2. **Speak up kindly.** Saying something like *"Let's not be mean. It's not fair to Leo"* can shift the tone.
3. **Tell a trusted adult.** It's okay to ask for help — and it's brave to speak up.

Why These Conversations Matter

- Group chats should be fun and respectful for everyone.
- Being part of a group means we all have a **shared responsibility** to stop harmful behaviour.
- Let your child know they can **always come to you**, and that they **won't be in trouble** for speaking up.

💡 Even if Leo never sees the messages, it's still wrong to be unkind. Real legends lift each other up — they don't tear others down.



Contact Us



If you have any questions regarding online safety, please speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Burton.

Visit us on the web at www.sherwood.notts.sch.uk

Follow and like us on [Facebook](#)