



## **Parents are your kids ready for a safe online Christmas with their new devices?**

This guidance outlines what parents can do to increase their own awareness of e-safety and influence their child's behaviour, helping them to understand how to use the internet safely.

### **Chatting**

Children can talk to others online in a variety of ways using many different platforms – this can be via text-based messaging, including instant messaging and SMS, or voice/video link, including internet phone calls and webcam. Chatting can also take the form of instant, real-time communication through chat rooms and instant messaging, or delayed communication using email and voicemail.

### **Tips for parents:**

- Familiarise yourself with the chat programme your child uses and make sure you understand its safety functions – contact the service provider if you are unsure.
- Make sure you talk to your child to find out who they are talking to online – encourage them to think before talking to anyone they don't know in person.
- Pay attention to and monitor your child's online behaviour – make sure you negotiate and establish boundaries, highlighting the importance of the concept of 'friends'.
- Make sure your child understands that arranging to meet with anyone they have met online is dangerous, and that they should only do so with your permission.
- Ask your child if they know how to block or remove someone that they don't want to talk to – if they don't, make sure you learn about this and show them. Ensure they know how to report someone who makes them feel uncomfortable online.
- Consider installing parental control software to introduce filtering options, monitoring and time limits for access to online chat.

If you notice any misconduct between your child and someone else, investigate it. Report people and inappropriate conversations to the site provider, and always keep a copy of the conversation as evidence.

**For more tips & advice on how to keep your child safe online please visit this link from the LGFL DigiSafe Team:**

<https://www.facebook.com/lgfldigisafe/videos/2533883613394078/>