

September 2022 E-Safety Newsletter

Online Challenges/hoaxes



“The internet and social media provide a perfect platform for hoaxes, especially hoaxes about challenges or trends that are said to be harmful or a risk to children and young people and can spread quickly. You should carefully consider if a challenge or scare story is a hoax. Concerns are often fuelled by unhelpful publicity, usually generated on social media, and may not be based on confirmed or factual occurrences or any real risk to children and young people.”

- [Harmful online challenges and online hoaxes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/harmful-online-challenges-and-online-hoaxes)

It is important to talk to your child about hoaxes and challenges that may appear on the internet. Some challenges are fun and provide no risk, however there will be challenges that are risky/dangerous. Your child may see others complete certain challenges online without being harmed and therefore may want to repeat them and not weigh up the potential risks to themselves. Make sure they know that they should talk to you about what they see online, particularly if they plan to try a challenge or if something scares or upsets them. The following links will provide you with further information as well as advice and guidance to help you talk to your child:

- [There's a viral scare online. What should I do? \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://thinkuknow.co.uk/there-s-a-viral-scare-online-what-should-i-do/)
- TikTok have produced this resource to help you talk to your child about challenges and the potential risks:
<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en-sg/online-challenges/>

Welcome to Best Futures' E-Safety newsletter.

The world of online safety is constantly evolving. Best Future's E-safety newsletter will help parents to keep current with changes, helping you to help keep your children safe.

Supporting young people with SEND online



The internet can be a brilliant place, but we need to be aware of the risks involved with being online. For children with SEND, they may encounter further challenges and therefore additional support may be required. There is a lot of tailored information available to parents and carers and the following links are a great starting point:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-families-children-with-send/>
- [Supporting children and young with SEND online | Internet Matters](#)
- <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/supporting-young-people-with-send-online/>

The above websites cover topics such as helping your child browse safely online, setting appropriate parental controls, activities to help discussions about being online and the steps you can take to help protect your child online.

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding, including online safety you can contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads: Kara Bradley or Abigail Moore on the office number 01472 278978