

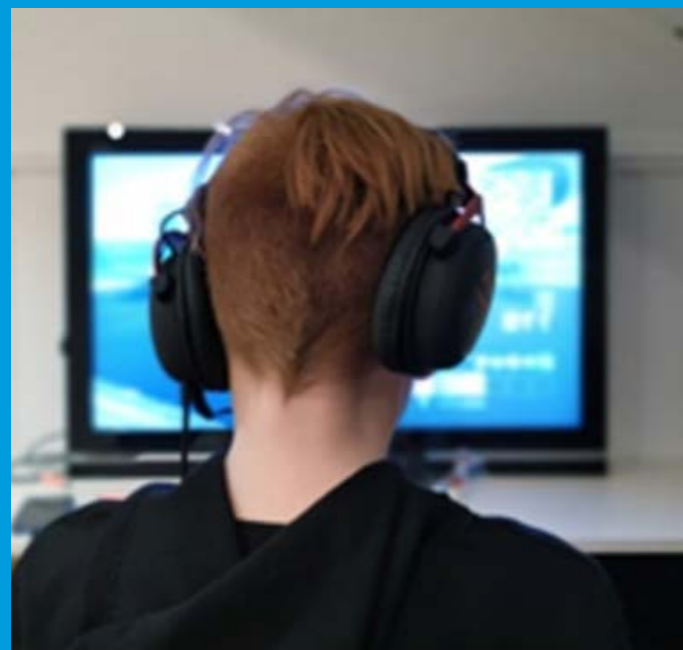


## LET'S TALK ABOUT CHATTING ONLINE

Children communicate online through lots of different apps, social media sites and games (including Snapchat, WhatsApp, Instagram, FIFA and Fortnite). At West Lea, we educate children to understand the dangers of playing and speaking to others online but we need your support at home to ensure these messages are remembered.

It is important to talk to your child about what they are doing online and who they communicate with, so you can limit the risks.

Some games children play online include communication between players, facilitated through the in-game text chat, direct messages or talking through headphones. Some games offer the ability to switch communication off or restrict bad language, so make sure settings appropriate to your child are set up for each of the games they play.



**Chatting to strangers:** Your child might be playing games online with people they don't know. Ensure your child knows how to block and report anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable. Ensure your child knows they can talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns.

As a parent or carer, open conversations are key to ensuring your child(ren) are safe and happy online.

The Parents' Guide created by Childnet International gives practical advice on starting conversations, how to work together as a family to support your child online, and how to handle difficult discussions or situations. The guide can be found here: [www.childnet.com/resources/lets-talk-about-life-online](http://www.childnet.com/resources/lets-talk-about-life-online)

**If you would like to talk through any of the above or would like any other support, advice or information about online safety please get in contact with me. I would be happy to help.**

**Angela Poplar**  
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Head of ICT



## INITIATIVES AT WEST LEA

West Lea has recruited student online safety ambassadors for Haselbury Campus. Other campuses will also select ambassadors in the coming weeks.

Our ambassadors will meet staff and governors to feedback on their online safety learning, keep us updated with the latest online trends and popular activities, make suggestions about how we can improve our online safety learning across the school, and help and support other students in the school.

Introducing our Online Safety Ambassadors at Haselbury Campus:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Jakub</b>      | <b>Habiballa</b> |
| <b>Daniel</b>     | <b>Connor</b>    |
| <b>Amy-Louise</b> | <b>Bradley</b>   |
| <b>Liam-Kai</b>   |                  |



## USEFUL RESOURCES

The Parents' Guide created by Childnet International:

[www.childnet.com/resources/lets-talk-about-life-online](http://www.childnet.com/resources/lets-talk-about-life-online)