Overley Hall School

OVERLEY HALL SCHOOL

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2026

Supporting Safe Online Gaming Over the Summer Holidays

As we move into the summer holidays, many children will spend more time online playing games, chatting with friends and exploring virtual worlds. Online gaming can be a positive experience that supports creativity, teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills. However, it is important that families understand the risks and know how to help children stay safe.

Let's work together to help children enjoy the benefits of online gaming while staying safe, respectful and responsible online.

WHY DO CHILDREN ENJOY ONLINE GAMES?

Children may play online games because they:

- Connect and socialise with friends
- Enjoy creative games such as Minecraft and Roblox
- Experience achievement through challenges and levels
- Learn new skills and strategies
- Have fun and relax after school

WHAT ARE THE MAIN RISKS?

TALKING TO STRANGERS
Many games have chat, voice or messaging features that allow children to communicate with people they do not know.

ONLINE BULLYING
Children may experience unkind comments, exclusion from games or inappropriate language from other players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES
Many games encourage players to spend money on virtual items, upgrades or rewards. Small purchases can quickly add up.

SCAMS AND TROLLING
Some players may attempt to trick children into sharing personal details, passwords or valuable in-game items.

TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

CHECK PEGI AGE RATINGS

Look for the age rating before downloading a game.

pegi.info

EXPLORE SAFETY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Most gaming platforms offer parental controls to:

- Limit screen time
- Restrict communication
- Manage spending
- Block unsuitable content

TALK ABOUT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Remind children never to share:

- Full name
- Address
- School name
- Telephone number
- Passwords

TAKE AN INTEREST

Ask your child:

- What games do you enjoy?
- Who do you play with?
- What would you do if something worried you online?

Open conversations are the best way to keep children safe.

CREATE A FAMILY GAMING AGREEMENT

Agree some simple family rules about:

- Appropriate games
- Screen-time limits
- Taking regular breaks
- Online behaviour
- Spending money online
- What to do if something feels wrong

Giving children notice before gaming time ends can help avoid disagreements and support healthy routines.

IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

Encourage your child to:

- Block and report users who are upsetting them
- Tell a trusted adult immediately
- Save evidence where possible
- Never meet online contacts in person

If children know they will be listened to without judgement, they are more likely to ask for help.

USEFUL HELP AND SUPPORT

NSPCC Online Gaming Safety
Advice on gaming, parental controls and online risks.
www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/

NSPCC Helpline
For advice and support.
0808 800 5000
www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/our-services/nspcc-helpline/

Childline
Confidential support for children and young people.
0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk

Internet Matters
Parent guides, advice and parental control information.
www.internetmatters.org

PEGI Ratings
Check whether a game is suitable for your child.
www.pegi.info

SUMMER HOLIDAY REMINDER

Talk • Explore • Play Together • Stay Curious

The most effective online safety tool is a trusted adult who listens, supports and regularly talks with children about their online lives.

At Overley Hall School, we are committed to working with families to create a safe and positive online environment for all our pupils.