



St Andrew's Online Safety Newsletter for Parents 10 2024

Being unkind online.

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face with each other. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face. How they act online should be how they behave on the school playground when they are following school rules.

Here are some examples of what being unkind looks like online:

- Sending nasty or hurtful messages.
- Leaving unkind comments.
- Sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission.
- Excluding somebody on purpose.
- Impersonating somebody with a fake account Telling/sharing lies.



The above might happen whilst your child is gaming online or whilst using social media or messaging apps for example.

What should I do if my child is being bullied online?

Ensure that your child understands that if they receive unkind messages or see something that worries them, they should not reply or engage in conversation with the perpetrator. Instead, they should tell a trusted adult. You can use the tools within an app to report any offensive or hurtful content as well as block people so they cannot contact them again in the future.

Starting a conversation with your child.

BBC Own It have curated a selection of videos and quizzes with ideas and advice to help make the web a kinder place. You could use these to help you start a conversation with your child.

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/curations/being-kind-online>

Further information:

<https://bulliesout.com/need-support/be-kind-online/>
<https://bekindonline.com/category/cyber-safety-tips/>

