



NCSPA Summer 2023 Online Safety Update



The metaverse?

What is it, where is it and what should parents and carers look out for?

There is lots of talk about the metaverse in news and media but do you know what it is? The metaverse is the concept of connecting people through many interconnected platforms within a given cyberspace. Whilst still in its infancy, the metaverse does exist and as it grows it provides many potential opportunities for children but also many potential risks.

As the metaverse slowly grows and starts to become one large entity, there are things parents and carers can do now to keep on top of it with their kids:

- Talk to them about their online lives including what they're interested in, who they're talking to and what they're doing
- Learn about their favourite platforms that are or could be in the metaverse like Roblox, ZEPETO, Minecraft and Fortnite.
- With your child, set up parental controls or privacy and security settings to help them understand why they are necessary and what they do
- Show them how to report and block unwanted interactions along with other features the platform might have like muting or restricting
- Explore their favourite platforms by playing together
- Learn about virtual reality and how your child might be impacted in the virtual space
- Talk to your child about money management especially when it comes to purchasing virtual items.

Find out more [here at Internet Matters](#).

Online Safety Lessons

This year our school has been using a website toolkit called Project Evolve to support the online safety lessons that run alongside the computing curriculum. The [ProjectEVOLVE](#) toolkit is based on the UKCIS framework "Education for a Connected World". The focus of the Summer Term for all year groups has been on Online Relationships. In Early Years, children have been discussing issues such as who is safe to talk to online, whilst in Year 6 children have been considering questions like how things shared privately online can have unintended consequences for others eg screen grabs.



What is artificial intelligence (AI)?

This guide to artificial intelligence will take you through how you can use AI to support children in different ways. But what is AI?

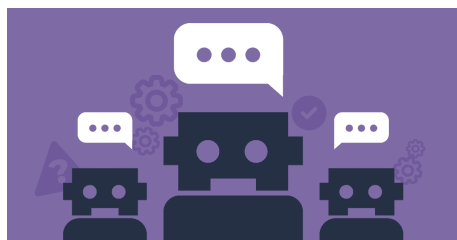
Artificial intelligence is a field of study in computer science. It deals with creating machines that are 'intelligent' and can perform tasks like a human.

AI uses information from various sources to provide its information. So, while a tool like ChatGPT might seem intelligent, it is really simply following instructions and information given to it to respond.

Informally, someone might use the term AI or artificial intelligence to refer to the tools themselves.

With a lot of talk about artificial intelligence (AI) across the digital space, people have concerns. However, decades of development in AI led it to its widespread popularity today. As such, you can use AI as a tool to benefit your child and family in many ways.

So, explore the different popular and available tools in [\[Internet Matters\]](#) parent's guide to artificial intelligence below. Then, get tips on how to use tools like ChatGPT for bedtime, learning, creativity and education.





Safeguarding at Newport Community School Primary Academy



Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Matt Crewe, Deputy Head Teacher.



Our school community is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All staff, including volunteers, must make sure they are aware of our procedures.

Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are:



Laura Kies
Head Teacher



Louisa Buttel
Curriculum Lead



Harriet Vickery
SENDCo



Fran Hemmings
Phase Leader

Additional support:



Judy Walters
Safeguarding Support

All staff are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support and protection.



The school's website has further information for parents to understand how we safeguard children in school and how parents can support their child/children on learning to be safe, for example:

[-NCSPA's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#)



[Operation Encompass- this is a national programme which runs jointly between schools and police forces](#) ensures early reporting to schools that a child/young person has been exposed to domestic abuse

[Prevent](#)

Prevent is part of the UK government's counter-terrorism strategy, [CONTEST](#). Its aim is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a statutory duty on specified authorities to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

The strategy involves thousands of people – police and intelligence officers, the emergency services, local authorities, businesses, voluntary and community organisations, governments and other partners – working in together across the UK and the world to protect the public.



[NSPCC website and specifically the NSPCC PANTS campaign](#) helps children to understand how they keep themselves safe and the PANTS campaign helps parents to talk to children in an age appropriate way about keeping themselves safe from sexual abuse.

risk of children/young people being abused and exploited- how to keep children safe

***child abuse can take a range of different forms.** It is any action by another person (adult or child) that causes harm to a child. It can be defined as physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect.

***risk of harm to children/young people is also present in the community**, for example: online safety, cyberbullying, domestic violence and abuse, radicalisation and extremism, child trafficking and modern slavery, County Lines, female genital mutilation, gang activity

***teaching children/young people about how to look after themselves and keep safe-** good physical, emotional and mental health and well-being; being aware of signs and symptoms that may indicate concern for a child; providing time to listen and talk, teaching children about how to keep themselves safe

NSPCC

Devon -

- **Devon Children and Families Partnership has online information for schools and parents** to understand how children may be abused, at risk of exploitation and how we can keep children safe <https://www.dcfp.org.uk/child-abuse/>

- **National organisations to support children;** for example, Childline, NSPCC

