

Dear Parent/Guardian

Social media and online gaming is an exciting virtual world for today's teenagers, but now sees an ever increasing risk of online grooming affecting both boys and girls in Surrey.

Surrey Police has launched a campaign to raise awareness of this among young people and parents, as well as share tips about how to stay safe online.

**Parents – what you can do to help:**

- Do your children use apps or social networking sites you're not sure of? [NetAware](#) by the NSPCC and O2 is a great resource that can teach you about what the apps do, the risks involved, as well as how you can change privacy settings, report and block users.
- We're giving young people advice on how to protect themselves online. Please share our tips:
  - **Keep your accounts private.**  
Most websites, apps and social networks have 'privacy settings'. These help you control who can follow you, what you share and who you share it with.
  - **Choose your friends wisely.**  
It's always best to only share with friends you know in the real world.
  - **Remove and report.**  
Make sure you know how to remove content, as well as report content if it's about you and you're worried or if it's offensive.
  - **Know yourself online.**  
Regularly Google yourself to see what other people can find about you, as well as things others might have posted about you.
  - **Shut down or delete.**  
If you stop using a website, remember to deactivate your account
  - **Report suspicious online behaviour to Surrey Police, anonymously to Crimestoppers or tell a trusted adult.**
- If you're suspicious a child is being groomed online, report it to Surrey Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency. You can also report anonymously to Crime stoppers on 0800 555 111.
  - Warning signs of grooming include, but aren't limited to: unexplained gifts, unexplained changes in behavior or personality, changes in physical appearance such as weight loss, being absent from school, overly familiar with strangers.

We have a number of videos you can watch about Online Grooming on our YouTube channel which have been shared on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter with young people.

Notes:

If you would like to link to our videos on your website, please link to the Surrey Police [YouTube](#).