Please edit the following text / delete as appropriate. Feel free to cut and paste into your school logo/letterhead and share with parents in any way, but please don’t add in the names of specific challenges – that will lead to more publicity and scaring. See [scare.lgfl.net](https://scare.lgfl.net) for the rationale behind this, or get in touch – safeguarding@lgfl.net.

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Seeing and sharing scary things online**

Keeping children safe is a top priority at [ your school name ], whether on school premises or beyond, and this of course extends to the online world.

Online safety is a whole-school effort: it is embedded throughout the curriculum, explicitly in subjects like RSHE [ or RSE or Health Education or PSHE – however you refer to it in your school ] and Computing, but also taught in all subjects and topics throughout the year (we use the ‘[Education for a Connected World](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-a-connected-world)’ framework from UKCIS). [ delete if not true, or have a look! ] And of course, it is very much part of our safeguarding focus given the real risks and dangers which exist online to all children.

We like to focus on the positives of the online world because we recognise that technology is here to stay and pupils at our school live, love and learn through their tech (as do most adults!).

To ensure a consistent approach to keeping your child safe online, we would like to encourage you to talk to your child regularly about what they get up to online. We know that children are much more likely to seek parents’ help when things go wrong, if you have an open approach and have regular dialogue with them about their online activity.

So, for example you could ask them **what they do on their device/s and with whom, what they love, and what worries them. Why not get them to show or teach you how to use one of their apps, sites or games**? The key thing is to stay positive, but be real about the risks and make sure they know who they can talk to if they are unsure about something. These conversations should wherever possible take place regularly and as soon as children start engaging with any technology.

There are plenty of things to be aware of online that are scary, but please don’t show your child scary images, news stories or tell them the names of ‘bad apps’ (all apps can be good or bad) or challenges/dares to avoid. By doing that, you can inadvertently scare them even more or make them curious to go and access these! Instead, **talk about what to do if they see something scary or someone dares them to do something stupid or dangerous; ask them if they would tell someone and who**; make sure they know never to forward these things to their classmates.

For more tips for parents, including parental controls for devices and apps, you may wish to visit: [parentsafe.lgfl.net](https://parentsafe.lgfl.net)

If you have any questions, please contact NAME & DETAILS

Thank you for your continued support