Our Lady’s Catholic Primary is committed to educating children to create digital citizens who contribute to the online world in a positive and considerate way.  Here are some resources and links to websites that maybe of interest to you.

**Social Media**

You can find some practical guidance for parents and carers whose children are using social media by clicking [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490001/Social_Media_Guidance_UKCCIS_Final_18122015.pdf.pdf).

**Facebook** is the most popular Social Networking site on the internet.  It was launched in 2004 and has an estimated 1.94 billion users.  You can find more information about how to protect yourself online, how to report issues and how to deactivate your account [here](http://dwn5wtkv5mp2x.cloudfront.net/ufiles/Facebook_check_Feb_15.pdf).

**Instagram** is a photograph and video sharing application and is particularly popular with children and teenagers.  For further guidance of how you can stay safe when using Instagram, how to report any issues or how to deactivate your account click [here](http://dwn5wtkv5mp2x.cloudfront.net/ufiles/Instagram-Safety-4x4-Checklist_web.pdf).

**Musical.ly** allows users to create, share and discover new videos.  It allows users to create short videos of themselves dancing, performing or lip-syncing to music and to share them online via their app.  As with other social media sites users can set their profiles to private or public.  You can access more information about musical.ly by clicking [here](http://parentinfo.org/system/files/attachments/Musical%20ly%20Parent%20Guide.pdf).

**Snapchat** is a messenger app that allows you to send photos, videos, text and drawings.  The unique feature of Snapchat is that the message only stays on the recipient’s phone for a matter of seconds.  Further guidance on where to find privacy settings, report abuse and deactivate your account can be found [here](http://swgfl.org.uk/products-services/esafety/resources/Snapchat-Checklist/Snapchat-Checklist_new_2).

**Whatsapp** Whatsapp is a free messenger app that enables users to send messages, images, video and audio using the internet and is popular amongst children.  Further information on how to restrict access to whatsapp can be found [here](https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/whatsapp-safety-a-how-to-guide-for-parents/).

**Online Gaming**

Online gaming has changed the gaming world for our children, they can now play against other gamers at any time.  This world can be scary for parents who don’t necessarily access these games themselves.  Practical advice for parents can be found [here](http://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Online-gaming.pdf).

It is worth noting that games are subject to similar age ratings as films are.  The system for rating games is called the PEGI rating, we would encourage you to familiarise yourself with these ratings which can be found [here](http://parentinfo.org/article/pegi-games-ratings-explained).

**Reporting**

There may be occasions where you need to report incidents that happen while online, this could be due to inappropriate language being used on a gaming platform, online bullying or another form of abuse.  If you need to make a report to CEOP, this can be done here:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

If you need to report something to a social networking site or a gaming provider you can find contact details of most of the popular social media and gaming providers by clicking [here](https://www.esafety.gov.au/complaints-and-reporting/cyberbullying-complaints/social-media-services-safety-centres).

**Want to speak to an expert?**Childline and O2 have teamed up to offer a free helpline for parents for any queries you may have regarding online activity, this could just be simple queries about online gaming or parental controls.  The free phone number is 0808 800 5002.