

## Newsletter - Summer Term 1

### July 2024



**Edd Bissenden**

We have fitted an enormous amount in over the last 2 weeks and the feeling in school has been one of excitement. It has almost felt like the end of year we have had so much to look forward to. We have finally had the GCSE's come to an end, that in itself is something that all our Year 11's should be immensely proud of.

Cass Pulley who is our exams officer has diligently made sure the students, papers, invigilators were in the right place with the right paper with everything else they needed so a huge thank you to her for overseeing all the exams this year.

This week we have welcomed the Egyptian cultural week at school. This is always a really lovely week where our students get a flavour of what other countries and cultures are like. Egypt is a very unique culture and country full of wonder and mystery and some of the activities this week has brought into this wonder. We have had 5 students visit the big city of London and called in on the British museum to see the ancient Egypt display. Mummified people, animals and treasures awaited them at every turn. They also did the tourist thing of seeing the houses of Parliament, Big Ben, the London Eye and travelled on the underground. What an experience for our students getting to the most famous city in the world and certainly the most historic.

Truro museum has had many Oak Tree pupils visit and they put on an excellent Egyptian workshop with the centre piece being a real mummy!

Other amazing activities have been cooking, pyramid building at Gwithian, mummification, clay tablet, mosaics, model making to name a few. The engagement has been brilliant and we can't wait to see the pictures that are produced. The weather over the last couple of weeks has been glorious, the school always does its best to encourage our students to use suncream. Please parents if you also encourage this and have students arrive at school with suncream on that would be a great help.

We have 3 weeks left now and we look forward to school camp, the beach Olympics, school camp and all the tutor groups shuffling up a little. All tutors will be communicating with parents/carers about the upcoming changes to tutor groups and timetables. The new tutor groups and timetable will be kicking off on the 8th July. Also a reminder that Friday 5th July is an INSET day, school will not be open for students and all taxi's have been notified.

## Key Dates for your Diary

### Inset Day

5th July 2024

### School Camp Week

July 15th July 2024

### Awards/Music Evening

11th July 2024

### Last Day of Summer Term

Students finish at

12:30pm

24th July 2024

### GCSE Results Day

22nd August 2024

All key dates will be  
uploaded on our website.

To view our news and  
events please [click here](#).



## THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE DAY TIME

This week, Polperro class have been honoured with the presence of Paul's Beagle, 'Watson', who has been a well behaved and model student in all subjects. Students have enjoyed him being around and taking him for numerous walks around the perimeter.

In English lessons, we have been focusing our work on 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time', which all students are engaged with and producing fantastic work.

Being the creatives that we are in Polperro, we have also been allocating plenty of time towards art and music and rehearsing a list of songs such as The 1975, Kanye West and even our own composition called 'Summer Feeling'.

Speaking of summer, we aim to spend the rest of our half term outside as much as possible, learning, drawing and playing music to make the most of the good weather and we hope that you do too.



## Ocean Well Being Youth Project

We had four students on this project which empowers participants to recognize the immediate positive impact of their actions on the environment and their mental health.

We learned about the project and the things they do and how they collect marine plastic waste and recycle it into cool things.

In total we collected 10kg of plastic which is now off for recycling and we will hear what it got made into soon!

PARENT & CARER



NEWS & WHATS ON

CULTURAL  
WEEK



Egypt

PENHALE - Truro Museum



WATERGATE BAY - Mummies



# PARENT & CARER

## Time 2 move

Time 2 move holiday programme can be booked online through Cornwall Council, bookings now available for summer 2024.



The poster for the Time 2 Move Holiday Programme features a blue circular logo with a yellow silhouette of a person jumping. To the right, a photo shows two children holding a yellow ball. Below the photo, a QR code is labeled 'Scan here to book!'. The text 'Activities are taking place across Cornwall during the school Summer holidays' is followed by a bulleted list: 'Multi sports, forest schools, circus skills, water sports and lots more', 'For children aged 5 to 16', 'A healthy meal available for all children', and 'Funded places for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals'. At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'For more information: W: www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme/, E: Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk, T: 01872 324287'. A small circular inset shows a child painting. Social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are at the bottom right, along with logos for 'active Cornwall' and 'Cornwall Council'.

**TIME 2 MOVE**  
Holiday Programme

Scan here to book!

Activities are taking place across Cornwall during the school Summer holidays

- Multi sports, forest schools, circus skills, water sports and lots more
- For children aged 5 to 16
- A healthy meal available for all children
- Funded places for children eligible for benefits-related free school meals

For more information:  
W: [www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme/](http://www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme/)  
E: [Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk)  
T: 01872 324287

**FIND AN ACTIVITY NEAR YOU!**

## Cornwall Council



Find out about walking and cycling routes around Cornwall with these handy active travel maps to find

- Key locations including schools, local shops and green spaces.
  - how to get to them on foot, by bike or by public transport
  - further information about walking and cycling routes in the local area
  - a handy distance/time calculator
- <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-parking-and-streets/sustainable-transport/active-travel-walking-and-cycling/>

Headstart Kernow is launching a new parent and carer video series on education.

This series feature 21 video workshops covering a range of topics including SEND (special educational needs and disabilities), applying for a school place, school attendance, elective home and education and safeguarding.

Further information can be found on the Together for Families facebook page.

## Together for families





Extremist groups use the internet and social media to spread their ideology and recruit vulnerable young people. They know young people are using the internet much more, quite often by themselves, and so utilise these opportunities to exploit and recruit. There is a chance that your child may meet people online or visit websites that could lead them to adopting what is considered extreme views, and become radicalised. Whether you'd like to protect your child from being radicalised or you are concerned that they may be at risk, navigate our guidance below to get expert tips on practical ways you can support them and where you can go for further support.

## Why do young people become radicalised?

The reasons for young people being drawn into extremist views are many and varied but may include the following:

- They are trying to make sense of world events.
  - They feel that their culture or religion is under threat.
  - It makes them feel a sense of identity or belonging or being part of something.
  - They are looking for adventure or excitement.
  - They have a personal grievance or experience of racism or discrimination and feel they want to change things.
- They are under pressure from their peers who have links with these groups.

## Key terms

**Extremism** - Vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

**Terrorism** - A violent action against people or property, designed to create fear and advance a political, religious or ideological cause.

**Radicalisation** - The process by which a person comes to support extremism and terrorism.

## How are young people radicalised?

Young people may come into contact with adults and peers with extremist views both online and in everyday life. The person may be a friend or relative or may be a stranger they meet online.

Contact online may be through social media such as Facebook, Twitter or YouTube but young people may be invited to join discussions on less well-known sites such as Kik, Whisper, Messenger, Yik Yak or Telegram. Extremists often use these sites because they are harder to monitor and they can hide their identity. Extremists often manipulate young people by using emotional triggers to engage with them, and may target them when they are experiencing difficulties such as bereavement, emotional trauma, mental health issues or social isolation.

## How can parents keep young people safe?

- Make sure you know where your child is and who they are with; find out about your child's friends and their families.
- Be aware of your child's **online activity** and check which social media sites they are visiting; report any sites that you have concerns about.
- Talk to your child about their lives and their interests; encourage them to take up **positive activities** with local groups that you trust.
- Help your child to be **critically aware** of what they see on the TV or the internet; encourage them to see different points of view and help them to develop tolerance for others.
- Remind your child that people they contact over the internet may not be telling them the whole truth and may not inform them of any potential dangers. **If they are being asked to keep something secret then they may be at risk of harm.**
- Get help from other members of your family or community that your child looks up to.

## Tackling the issue: a step by step guide



- 1. Choose a news story:** this could be one your child is interested in, or one that you would like to discuss with them. Ask them how they feel about the story – one way to do this is by using Emotion cards like the ones below.

How does this make you feel?		
Confused	Curious	Calm
Angry	Anxious	Indifferent
Interested	Excited	Something else

- 2. Research it together:** This could be from a source you have found or one your child has chosen or both! Consider these questions when looking at the resources:
- Who wrote it? Are they reliable and what evidence do they have?
  - When was it written? Is the information up to date?
  - Why was it written? Is there an agenda? Does the author have a bias?
  - Where else can you check the information?
- 3. Talk about it:** Share what you have found and discuss your reaction to it. Have your initial thoughts and judgements changed? Engaging in this process and showing you are willing is crucial. This will reassure your child that they can have these conversations with you.

### What can I do if I have a concern?

If you are worried about your child or have concerns that your child may be being radicalised then you can contact:

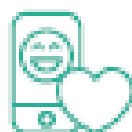
- Your child's school by speaking to their teacher or the Designated safeguarding lead
- Your local Prevent team by emailing [prevent@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:prevent@lbbd.gov.uk)

All the professionals will work together with you and your child to see what support can be offered to protect your child against radicalisation and the risks associated with it.

### Where else can I find support?

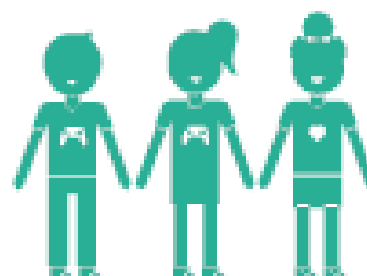
- Educate against hate - <https://educateagainsthate.com/>
- ThinkUKnow - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>
- NSPCC Talking to children about terrorism - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/dedicated-helplines/protecting-children-from-radicalisation/>
- Parentzone - <https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/>
- Ineqe Safeguarding group - <https://ineqe.com/safeguarding-hub/>
- BBC Newsround - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>
- Simple Politics - <https://www.simplepolitics.co.uk/>

# A straight forward guide to protecting children from online hate, extremism, and fake news



The pandemic has meant that children are spending more time than ever before learning and socialising online. Parents are juggling new technology alongside working and navigating the risks children face online. This interactive guide has links to resources, advice, and information to help you:

- Understand the risks and issues.
- Know where to get help.
- Find resources.
- Develop practical strategies.
- Start conversations.
- Build your child's digital resilience.



A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.



Mark Twain

## Risks and Tactics

**Extremists** use the internet and social media to spread their ideology, hate, fake news, and conspiracy theories. They actively **target, exploit and groom children and young people**.

They know young people are using the internet much more, quite often by themselves, and so utilise these opportunities to exploit and recruit.

They frequently do this by exploiting our emotions, deeply held beliefs, and values and are increasingly using the social isolation, anxiety, and fear that many children are experiencing because of the pandemic.

A common approach they use is to spread misinformation to generate anger and **outrage**. Teaching our children not to **fall for this trick** is one of the most important things we can do to protect them from grooming by extremists.



Frequently used tactics includes memes, making alterations to photos, videos, and documents and using them out of context. They make up quotes and social media posts for popular public figures.

Especially ones that children and young people look up to and follow online. Their aim is to draw children into conversations and encourage them to share misinformation and hate.



Extremists often pick a genuine local issue or concern and use it to spread lies, fear and hate about the group they're targeting. This BBC Bitesize guide has some great ideas of how to talk about this to children.

Mark Twain

## Where to start?

The most important thing parents and carers can do is talk to the children and young people in their lives about what they enjoy doing online. Talk about what they think isn't so good about being online and how to make it better. Then just keep talking as your child grows up and becomes more independent online. Find out what's their plan for when things go wrong or get them down and consider having a no blame rule, so that they'll talk to you when things go wrong, if they're worried about being told off or having devices confiscated they may decide to keep things to themselves.



The more a stranger knows about your child, the easier it is to groom them and gain trust. Only share with trusted friends and family.

## Support, ideas and resources

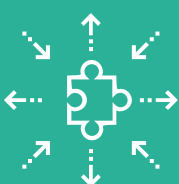


Click on the topics below to learn more about how to keep your child safe and support their wellbeing online. Learn how to identify misinformation, talk to children about hate speech and spot the signs they could be being groomed by extremists or other online predators.

### Educate Against Hate

Messages of hate can take many forms. Extremist groups use them to recruit young people. Parents can find answers to common questions and resources to help protect their child from being groomed by extremists as well as ideas about how to talk to children about hate and extremism.

### Risk



### Fact Check

Know how to fact check and have a link to a reliable fact checking site on your devices. This link to full fact is a great place to start, its one of the best sites for identifying Fake News for just what it is.

### How to know what to trust

This guide from the News Literacy Project is great place to start and has fun games and ideas for children and young people of all ages.





## Conspiracy Theories



Conspiracy theories have grown significantly in the past year they have been fuelled by the confusing and unsettling nature of the pandemic and have resulted in people being drawn into extremists groups, committing violent and criminal acts. They can also be deeply disturbing and unsettling for children and young people who come across them accidentally online. The video in this link explains why they are dangerous.

## Common Sense Media

This website has the latest research, tips, and tools on what really keeps children safe online. Which privacy settings should you use? What are the ins and outs of parental controls? Get tips on everything from the basics, such as smart usernames, to the big stuff, such as appropriate sharing. Plus lots of resources and strategies to look after your child's wellbeing online. What are the pro's and con's of Roblox, TikTok, Instagram or how to talk to teens about online predators.

[Digital Resilience Toolkit](#)

[Facts and advice about Online Radicalisation](#)

[The Fake News Quiz](#)  
[Test your skills](#)

## Four ways to counter hate on social media



1. Don't feed the trolls, click on [this link](#) and read this Guide to Dealing With Hate on Social Media.
2. Watch [this video](#) with the children in your life and talk about what you can do to make the internet a safer place.
3. Block, mute and report [this guide](#) will show you how. If you see a [hate crime report](#) it here.
4. Look after yourself and the children in your life. Switch off your devices and go for a walk, talk to a friend or do something else you like together that doesn't require technology.

Is someone you know becoming a stranger?



Act early



### Kent and Medway Prevent Education Officers

Jill Allen (South & East Kent) [jill.allen@kent.gov.uk](mailto:jill.allen@kent.gov.uk)  
Sally Green North & West Kent and Medway [sally.green2@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sally.green2@kent.gov.uk)

Guide designed by JA, February 2022.

