

Information received from the PSNI

Online Safety – Christmas 2022

Many children and young people will receive new devices and computer games for Christmas, but we're asking parents, do you know what your child is doing online or most importantly, who they are talking to?

For some children, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

Along with our partners at the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland, we have put together some key tips on how to make sure children enjoy the internet safely.

These tips include; checking the privacy, location and parental controls on devices that the child uses, checking the direct messages and chat functions on apps, using parental controls and having open conversations with their child about what they are doing online.

Parents and carers can access the Safeguarding Board NI App for online safety information and advice. Practical tips and advice have been published on the Police Service's website here:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/safety-and-support/keeping-safe/protecting-yourself/internetsafety/keeping-children-safe-online>

Many thanks,

Kerry Brennan Detective Chief Inspector

Public Protection Branch | Northern Trust, CSE & HCAT Community Safety Department