



# CHURCHFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL



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**"Be the best you can be"**

Part of the Collective Vision Multi-Academy Trust

8<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you have had a good weekend.

I hope you enjoyed a happy and peaceful festive period. The law of averages says that not everyone will have. As you are aware we received some very sad news over the Christmas period. Please don't hesitate to reach out to school for support or advice. We will support the best way that we can.

Last week we went back in to the school hall for dinners. It was logistically difficult to arrange, but the children and staff were fantastic and made sure it was a success.

There is a strong focus on mental health in school this half term, with the week of 6th February set aside for some specific work to coincide with Children's Mental Health Week, Safer Internet Day and Dress to Express Day. The theme for Mental Health Week this year is "Let's Connect", which is designed to promote healthy connections and relationships in order to positively impact on mental health.

## **Online safety**

You may have read about an incident involving an 11-year-old girl who lives in Cheshire. Her mother discovered that she was being groomed over Spotify. This interaction, over a prolonged period of time and with an unknown adult, resulted in the girl sharing explicit photographs via the app.

The parent considered herself to be extremely vigilant around online safety and her daughter did not have access to apps that demonstrably present more risks of grooming such as TikTok, Snapchat, Facebook and Instagram and her daughter used Spotify to listen to podcasts before bedtime.

The groomer was using the shared playlist facility to ask questions and interact with children and encouraging them to upload photos as album art within Spotify.

Clearly, undesirable behaviour will always remain part of society and the prevalence of online apps presents ever-changing risks to our children. Our role in school and for you as parents is to ensure that children are aware of risks and how to counter them, in an age-appropriate way, as well as to prevent their access to age-inappropriate apps and games and to actively monitor their online behaviour.

As part of our computing and PSHE curriculum we look at online safety. We will continue to have this as an important aspect of our school curriculum. We will be creating a distinct area on our website with support for you as parents to help to give you up to date information on online safety – like the poster below:

Part of our Social Media & Live Streaming Series



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[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

What you need to know about...

# MUSIC STREAMING APPS & SITES

Download the App

Search Artists

## What are they? 'Music Streaming Apps & Sites'

Music streaming apps allow people to listen to music on their devices. It gives users access to millions of songs and artists from around the world. Popular music streaming apps and sites include Spotify, Soundcloud, Apple music, Amazon Prime and Deezer. Music streaming allows children to listen to songs from around the world in a much easier and cheaper way. This enables them to showcase their talent which would have been very hard to do many years back.



## Know the Risks

### Explicit content

Explicit content is everywhere online, including in popular music. Children can easily access songs on Spotify, for example, that may have explicit or inappropriate language not suitable for children. It is also easy to erase searches so you can't see what a child has been listening to.

### Adult themed podcasts

Many music streaming apps also offer the ability to listen to podcasts which can vary across any kind of topic, from business and health to comedy and relationships. Again, children could be exposed to content which is more adult themed or contains age-inappropriate language.

### Chatting to strangers

Some music apps, like Playlist, want to make music a more social experience by finding others who share the same musical tastes and will allow users to join group chats where they listen to a playlist together in real time. This could open up your child to talking to strangers online.

## Safety Tips

### Use child friendly apps

Many music streaming services are made just for children. For instance, the Spotify kids app provides parents with control over what their children listen to and all the content is family friendly and fun for children to explore.

### Turn off explicit content

Most of the major music streaming apps will provide the option to turn off explicit material to make sure the music is completely clean. Some services even offer an option to lock the content censoring settings with a password, so your child can't switch it back.

### Implement privacy controls

Check the privacy setting of your child's app. Ensure that whichever app or site they choose to stream music, the settings are set to be private. This way they can only share the music they are listening too with friends and family and can't engage in conversation with strangers.

## Offering Support

### Explore apps yourself

If your child insists on wanting to use a music streaming app then be part of the journey with them. Take the time to understand which apps they prefer to use and why they want to use it. Find out how to use the app yourself and understand what they could be exposed to and how to ensure they get the most of it in a safe manner.

### Regularly check-in

Have regular conversations with your child about what they are listening to and how they are feeling. If they do hear explicit music or content that makes them feel uncomfortable, let them know that they can always talk to you and discuss what they've heard and what it means.

## Our Expert Parven Kaur



Parven Kaur is social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks; a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



## **School Terms and Holiday Dates 2022 -2023**

As always, please avoid booking holidays in term-time. They can only be authorised if they are 'exceptional' circumstances. I have limited capacity to authorise holidays. Our registers are externally checked and there are strict guidelines in place with very little 'wobble' room regarding authorisation.

### **Spring Term 2023**

**Training day:** **Tuesday 3 January – School Closed**

Staff & Pupils Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

**Holiday:** Monday 20 February – Friday 24 February

Staff & Pupils Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

**Training day:** **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – School Closed**

**Holiday:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 14 April

### **Summer Term 2023**

Staff & Pupils: Monday 17 April

**Holiday:** Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June

Staff & Pupils: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

**Holiday:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September

Thank you for your continued support,

Diane Beardsmore  
Headteacher