

Ryefield Bulletin

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Mobile phones in schools survey results

Spring term VLT parents survey update

**Marvellous Monday:
Last week: 91.8%**

This week: 92.9%

Click the image below to watch video summary



★ Ramadan ★

As the holy month of Ramadan begins, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to all members of our school community who will be observing it. Ramadan Mubarak to you and your families. Ramadan is a significant and special time for Muslims around the world. It is a month dedicated to reflection, prayer, generosity and community. Many Muslims observe Ramadan by fasting from dawn until sunset, which means not eating or drinking during daylight hours. The fast is broken each evening with a meal called Iftar, often shared with family and friends.

Alongside fasting, Ramadan is also a time when people focus on kindness, charity and helping others, as well as spending time in prayer and reflection. At the end of the month, the celebration of Eid al-Fitr marks the completion of Ramadan. In school, we recognise that some pupils may be fasting or taking part in aspects of Ramadan with their families. As always, we encourage all children to show respect and understanding for one another's beliefs and traditions, which is an important part of our inclusive school community. We wish all families observing Ramadan a peaceful and blessed month.



🌍 World Book Day 🌍

World Book Day was a fantastic celebration of reading across the school, and it was wonderful to see the creativity and effort shown by both pupils and families. Children arrived dressed as a wide range of characters from their favourite books, with many imaginative and carefully prepared costumes on display. The enthusiasm and pride the children showed in sharing their characters and stories helped create a brilliant atmosphere throughout the day.

We are very grateful to families for the time and effort taken to support the event. Your support helps nurture a love of reading and storytelling, making days like this memorable and inspiring for the children.

Ryefield Primary: Our Response to Parent Feedback

Following a review of "Parent Voice" feedback, Ryefield Primary has identified key areas for development. This roadmap outlines planned improvements to policy communication, online safety resources, and SEND support to ensure all families feel heard and supported.



Behaviour Policy Update

A summer term update will focus on better communicating the school's approach to sanctions.



Accessible SEND Support

Ongoing breakfast meetings will now include video summaries for parents unable to attend in person.



Enhanced Online Safety Support

Regular bulletin updates will be joined by new video tutorials to help families navigate digital risks.



Mental Health & Self-Regulation

Staff will receive MHFA refresher training alongside new school signage to support pupil self-regulation.

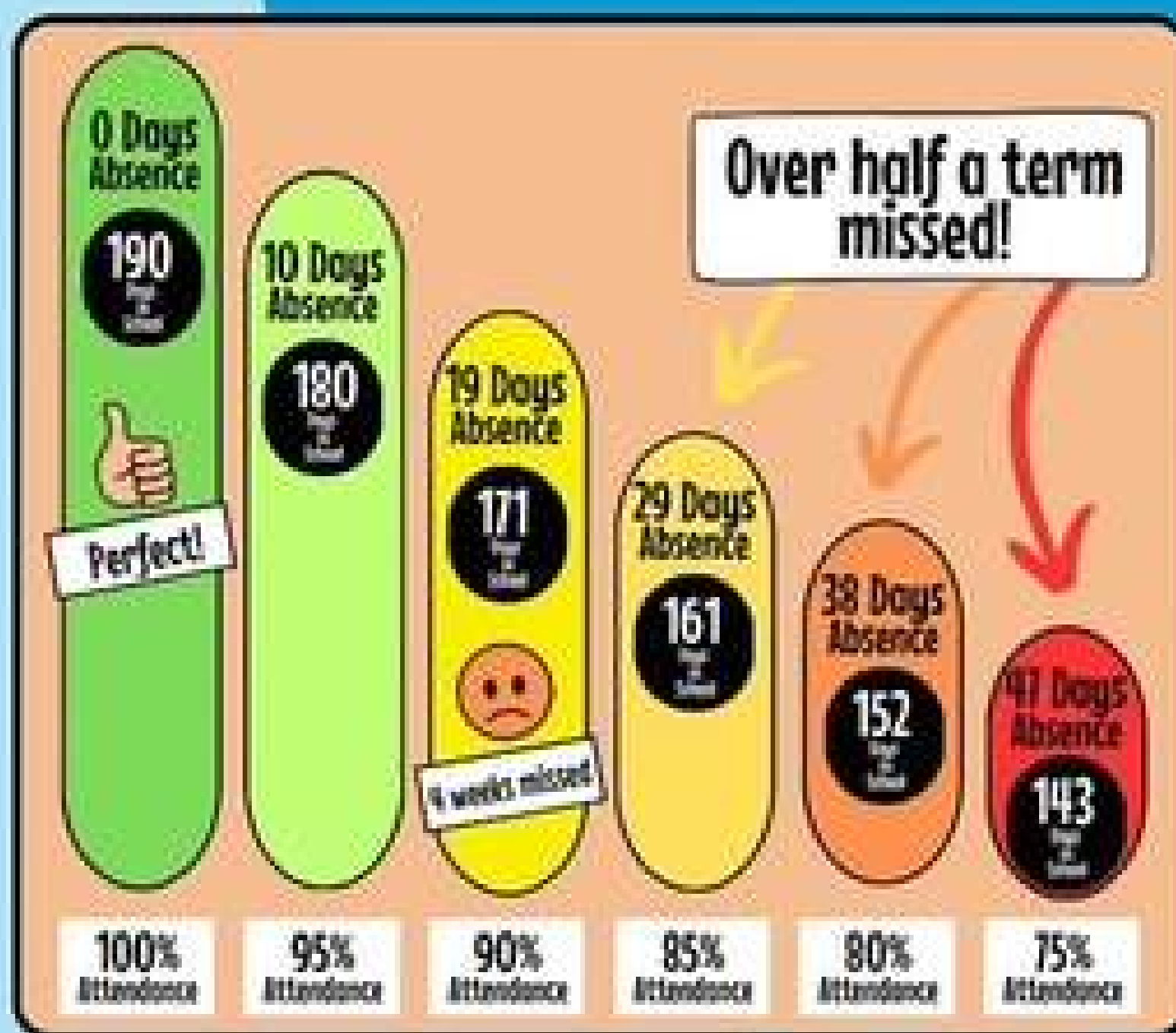
School Attendance

Every day counts...



Good attendance helps with...

<p>Academic Achievement Regular attendance helps children stay on track with the curriculum and achieve stronger academic results.</p>	<p>Social Skills Being in school every day helps children make friends, develop important social skills and feel part of the school community.</p>	<p>Routine & Responsibility Attending school regularly teaches the importance of commitment, routine and responsibility, helping children build valuable life skills.</p>	<p>Focus & Engagement Children who attend school regularly are more likely to stay engaged in their learning and develop a positive attitude towards education.</p>	<p>Building Confidence Regular attendance can boost a child's self-esteem and confidence, as they see their progress and achievements over time.</p>	<p>Enhanced Learning Opportunities School offers more than academic learning - it provides clubs, activities and enrichment opportunities that help children discover new interests and talents.</p>
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Did you know there are...

- 365 Days in a Year
- 190 School Days
- 175 Non School Days

Having 90% over 5 school years, is half a school year's work missed!

Tips for Supporting Good Attendance...

<p>Set a regular routine A consistent bedtime and morning routine helps children feel ready for school and reduces last-minute stress.</p>	<p>Aim for every day Try to make school attendance the default. Only keep your child off if they are genuinely unwell.</p>	<p>Plan appointments carefully Where possible, book medical or dental appointments outside school hours so your child doesn't miss lessons.</p>	<p>Talk positively about school Ask about your child's day and celebrate the little things they enjoy. Your positivity helps them look forward to school.</p>	<p>Stay in touch When a child is struggling, early communication with the school helps everyone find solutions and makes things easier for the child.</p>	<p>Prepare the night before Pack bags, lay out uniforms and check homework in the evening to make mornings smoother and less stressful.</p>
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Debating success

Ryefield Primary School is currently performing exceptionally well in the Urban Debate League, with the latest standings placing the school 6th nationally and 1st in London. With the competition still ongoing, this represents a fantastic achievement so far and reflects the dedication and skill of the pupils involved. The Urban Debate League brings together schools from across the country to take part in structured debates that challenge pupils to research topics, construct clear arguments and respond thoughtfully to opposing viewpoints. Ryefield pupils have demonstrated impressive confidence, teamwork and critical thinking throughout the competition, consistently presenting well-reasoned arguments and speaking with clarity and conviction.

Being ranked first in London highlights the strength of Ryefield's debating team within one of the most competitive regions in the country. At the same time, being 6th nationally places the school among the leading primary schools participating in the league.

As the competition continues, these current rankings are something the whole school community can be proud of. They reflect not only the commitment and enthusiasm of the pupils who represent the school, but also the support and encouragement provided by staff in developing pupils' confidence in speaking, listening and reasoning.

We look forward to seeing how the team progresses in the remaining rounds and wish them continued success in the debates ahead.

Spring term dates

Friday 6th March: Y6 visit WW2 Bunker

Tues 10th March: Y3 cinema trip & 1530 to 1900 Parents' Evening

Wed 11th March: 1530 to 1700 Parents' Evening

Thursday 12th March: Tennis taster

Monday 16th March: Boys netball rally

Wednesday 18th March: VLT Science Challenge

Tuesday 24th March: Flower festival performance to school

Wednesday 25th March: Flower festival performance to parents

Thursday 26th March: Flower delivery

Thursday 26th March: Y5 visit the Tower of London

Friday 27th March: Spring term ends

Easter holiday: 30th March - 9th April



Mobile phone survey

Thank you to the parents and carers who completed our recent survey about children, phones and independence. The responses show that while families support children developing independence, there is strong agreement that unrestricted smartphone use should be delayed. Many parents indicated a preference for simpler devices that allow communication for safety.

The findings will also be shared with local secondary headteachers to support wider conversations about children's digital habits. At Ryefield, phones are not permitted in school. However, pupils who walk to school independently and carry a phone for safety must hand it into reception at the start of the day and collect it at the end of the school day.

Smart Moves: Navigating Phones and Independence at Ryefield.

Based on a survey of 82 Ryefield Primary parents, this report highlights a cautious but pragmatic community. While independence is encouraged, there is an overwhelming consensus to prioritise safeguarding and delay unrestricted smartphone access in favour of simpler, safer alternatives.



Parents Evening

You should now have received an email inviting you to book an appointment for the upcoming Parents' Evening. The email contains the link and instructions needed to select your preferred time slot.

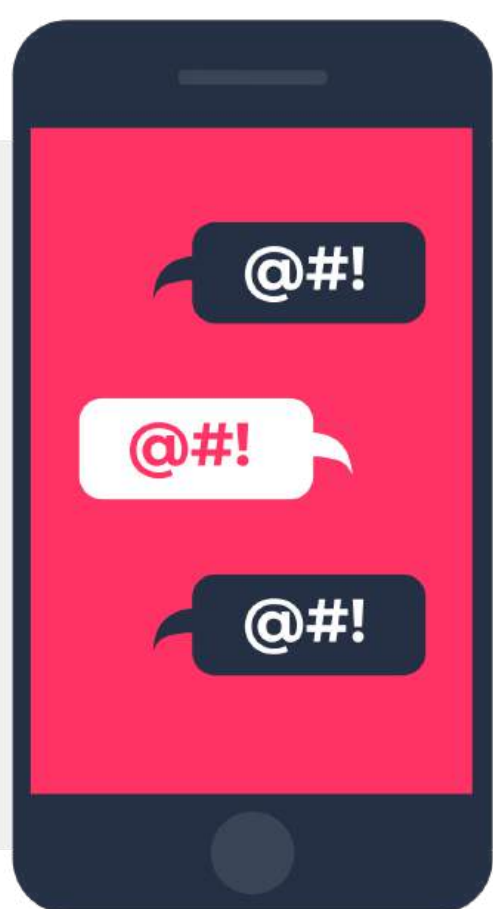
If you have not received this email, please check your junk or spam folder in case it has been filtered there. If you are still unable to locate it, please contact the school office or message your child's class teacher via Class Dojo so that we can ensure you are able to make a booking. Parents' Evening is an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and learning, and we look forward to meeting with you.

Tackling online hate and trolling

internet
matters.org

Advice to support children & young people

As children spend more time interacting with each other online, it's important to help them recognise behaviours that can spread harmful content. The growth of hate speech and trolling online can often have real-world consequences so equipping them with the tools to address these issues is essential.



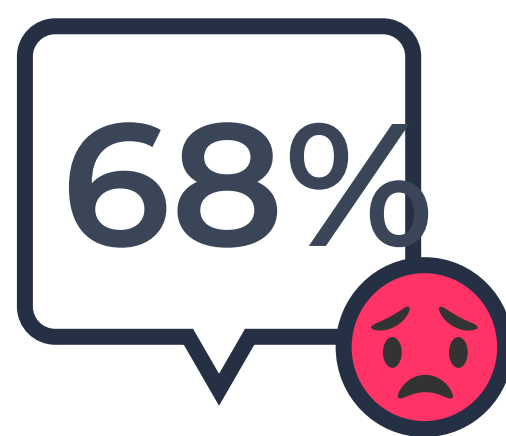
What is online hate?

Online hate speech is any online communication or expression which **encourages or promotes hatred, discrimination or violence, against any person or group**, because of their race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity. It can be referred to as cyberbullying or trolling and if serious enough may break the law and be seen as a hate crime.

Facts and statistics



One-third of young people encountered hate speech online



68% of teens don't know how to report or flag content online



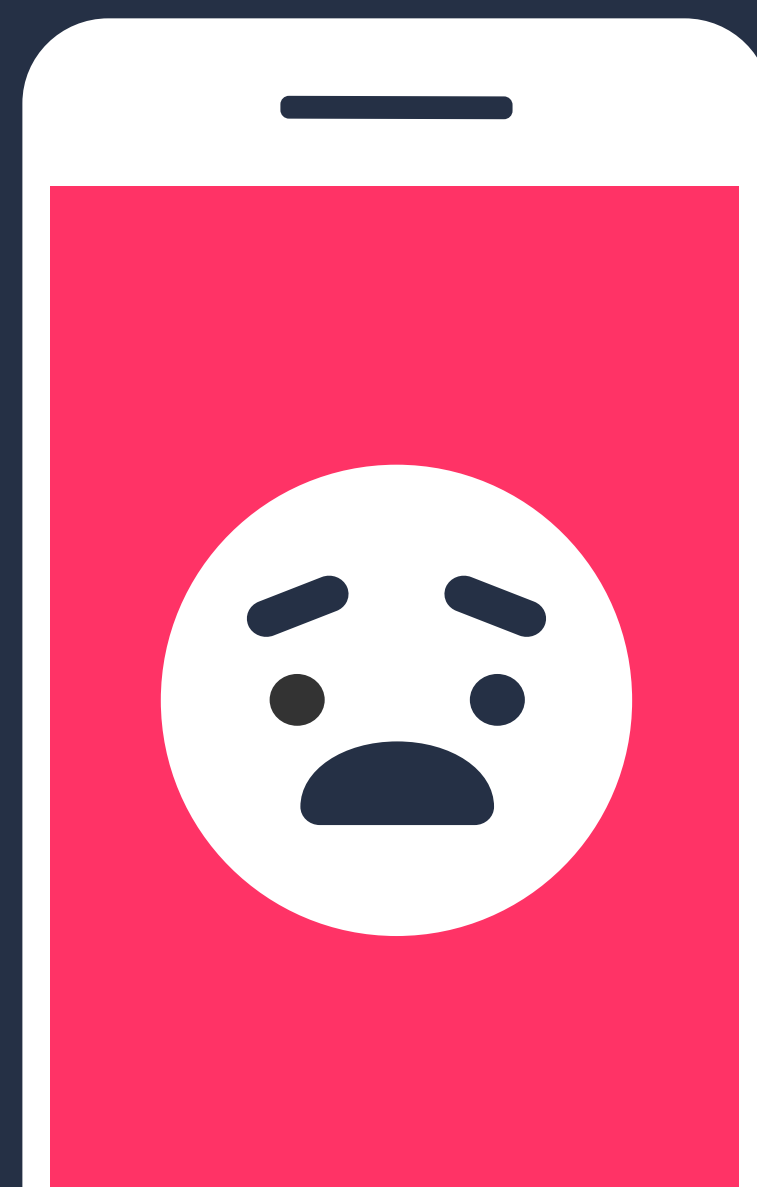
Half of parents are concerned about their child being influenced by extreme content online

Why is hate speech so dangerous?

Being exposed to online hate can have a **real impact on young people's wellbeing**. It can also normalise discrimination, hateful attitudes and behaviours towards certain groups of people.

Sometimes online hate can lead to hate crimes

offline. There have been incidents where young people who have been threatened online because of their sexual orientation, religion or race and have taken their own lives due to the constant nature of the abuse they received.



What does the law say about online hate?



Hate crime committed whether online or offline is illegal, however, not all offensive content is illegal in the UK. If it incites hatred based on race, religion and sexual orientation then this can be considered as a crime. For content that does not meet the threshold of a hate crime, the police are required to record it as a hate incident. Laws in the UK aim to protect the freedom of speech so it can be a delicate balance to police online.

How do platforms protect users from online hate?

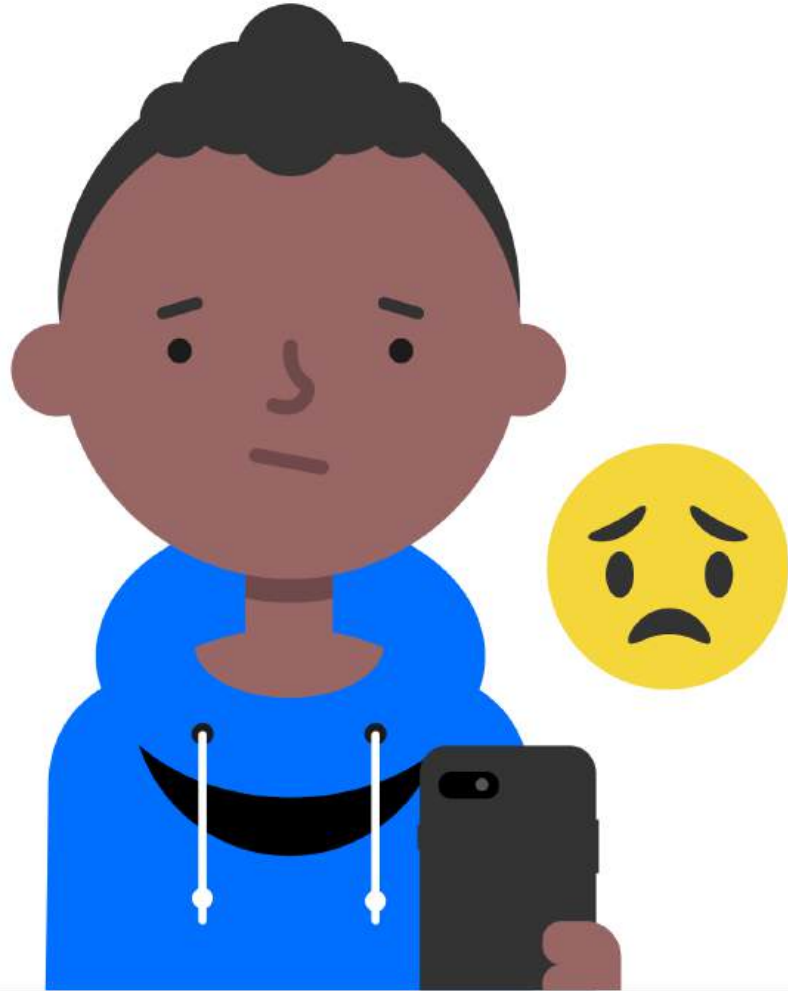
The majority of platforms have community guidelines and specific policies on hate speech which outline what is and isn't allowed on the platform. If a user breaks these rules their account can be blocked or removed from the platform. Some platforms also use artificial intelligence as well as moderators to spot harmful content, so it's picked up early on. However, a lot of the policing of hate speech on social platforms **relies on users reporting it to the platform** so action can be taken.

Teens who don't report state it's none of their business or don't think reporting does anything.



Only 14% of young people use reporting functions

What's the impact of online hate and trolling on children and young people?



Children and young people are **especially vulnerable to online hate** as sometimes many are looking for groups or causes that will give them a sense of identity.

Victims of online hate may show:

- low self-esteem
- sleeping disorders
- increased anxiety and feelings of fear

and insecurity

- feeling lonely or isolated
- feeling embarrassed, therefore want to deal with the problem by themselves

Sometimes children may “feel left out, like they've got no friends.” It might also impact

their schooling and could lead to

depression.

How are people targeted by online hate speech?

- **Trolling** – social media posts that contain hate speech or images. Posts that are created can be reposted, shared, liked or retweeted therefore continuing the cycle of hate
- **Messaging** – messages containing hate speech/images can be directly or indirectly sent to the victims through messages via email, WhatsApp, forums, gaming sites, etc
- **Online harassment** - can include repeated attempts to send unwanted communications or contact in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear
- **Baiting** – this is used in bullying to intentionally make a person angry by saying or doing something that annoys them, for example insulting someone's sexual preference or race
- **Virtual mobbing** – when a number of individuals use social media or messaging to make comments to or about another individual, usually because they are opposed to that person's opinions. The volume of messages may amount to a campaign of harassment

Other forms:

- Threats of violence
- Hoax calls and abusive phone messages



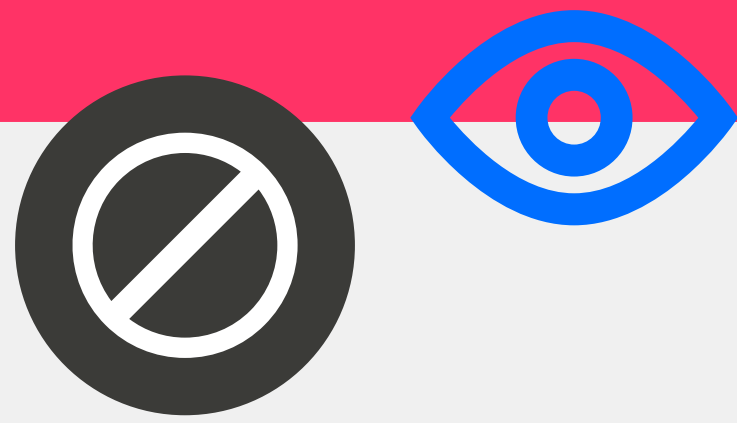
REMEMBER!

Not all negative speech is hate speech. Someone, for example, may disagree with a religious scripture or policy without being hateful.

You can find out ways to recognise and respond to bullying here

www.internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying/protect-your-child/

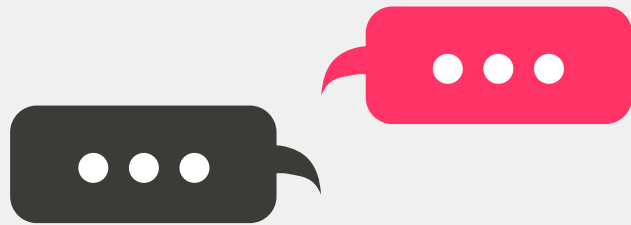




Tips to support your child

The best way to protect your child from online hate and trolling is to **take an active interest in how they socialise on and offline**. Having meaningful conversations with them to develop their critical thinking is essential. Here are some tips you can share with them to help them develop good online behaviours:

- **Tip 1 – Make sure they know** to treat others as they want to be treated
- **Tip 2 – Advise them** not to spread hateful or threatening content online but report it
- **Tip 3 – Tell them** not to say something online that they wouldn't say face-to-face
- **Tip 4 – Ensure they're aware of** the community guides on the platforms they use, such as Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook. Find out more here www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/social-media-resources/
- **Tip 5 – Ask them** if they know about online hate, would they recognise it?
- **Tip 6 – Encourage your children** to have an open attitude and honest curiosity about other people because some instances of hate speech are based on ignorance or false information
- **Tip 7 – Look for terms** that might creep into your child's vocabulary. Sometimes kids (and adults) use harmful terms without realising



REPORT IT

- **Block** the perpetrator immediately
- **Report** it to the school
- **Report online hate material** to the website admin – most websites have rules known as 'acceptable use policies' and platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. See our report issue page www.internetmatters.org/report-issue/
- **Report it to the hosting company** – If the website itself is hateful or supports violence then let the website's hosting company know. You can find out which company hosts a website by entering their web address on 'Who is hosting this?' www.whoishostingthis.com/
- **Contact Stop Hate UK** www.stophateuk.org/
- **Contact the police**

Scan below or visit internetmatters.org for more advice



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