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## Safeguarding Newsletter

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Hello and welcome back to our monthly safeguarding newsletter- the first one of 2026!

### Online Safety Hub

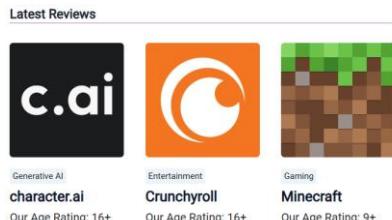
Trusted digital safety advice for caregivers

This month, we continue to share information from the [Online Safety Hub](#) introduced last month, as created by Hamwic and Smoothwall which provides an online parenting safeguarding hub for schools, parents and carers. The Online Safety Hub can be found [here](#) and includes parent advice, webinars, information and guidance on all things relating to online safety.

Knowing that many children will have received new technology for Christmas, we wanted to highlight the OSH's [reviews page](#), which gives safety reviews for hundreds of popular and trending games and apps in a parent-friendly way. Simply search for the game/app and it will give you a breakdown of the **game/app features** as well as **risk indicators** giving a score of 0-5 (low to high) for safeguarding areas such as sexting, privacy, security, adult content, online bullying, predators, violence, deception, cost and screen time.

It then breaks each risk indicator section down into '**What Parents Need to Know**' which gives the details against the 0-5 scores. For more information, please click the images above or [here](#) to explore the Online Safety Hub!

**We want to hear from you! If ever you have any questions, concerns or updates in relation to safeguarding, please reach out to a Designated Safeguarding Lead in school either by using the email above or popping into the office.**



### Spotlight Support:

Each issue we signpost a different support area for you or your child to go to if needing to access a particular type of help or signposting.

This month, we highlight [Childline's support page](#) to help children and families navigate family problems such as what to do when members aren't getting on, how to manage family arguments, changes in your family, changes to family and moving out or running away.



Click the image for information.

# #WakeUpWednesday

The National College's #WakeUpWednesday aims to equip every trusted adult with the knowledge and skills they need to keep up with the latest information and heighten awareness of issues around core topics of online safety.



**This month**, we are highlighting #WakeUpWednesday's free E-guide for parents and carers for support and tips in understanding **AI-powered toys**. [This free guide](#) looks at AI-powered toys which can be both exciting and educational, but they also raise new questions about data privacy, safety, and how children learn.



**AI-driven toys are becoming increasingly common**, offering children personalised interactions that can feel surprisingly lifelike. [This guide](#) unpacks how these toys listen, learn, and respond – and what that means for privacy, security, and healthy development. From data collection to the subtle influence of artificial voices, it highlights why adults need to look more closely at the tech inside modern playthings. It explores how features like constant connectivity, engagement-boosting rewards and behaviour-shaping responses can affect children's play habits. **The guide outlines the risks and shares practical advice** to help set boundaries and check permissions ensuring AI remains a support for real-world interactions, not a substitute for them.

## **What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FC 26**

*This online safety guide explores EA FC 26 (Fifa) – the latest edition of the immensely popular football game. It flags potential risks, including in-game purchases, scams, and exposure to strangers via voice chat.*

With new kits, updated squads and refined gameplay, EA FC 26 brings the thrill of top-tier football to living rooms once again.

While it continues to offer family-friendly fun in modes like Kick-Off and Career, the ongoing popularity of Ultimate Team – where players spend money to build fantasy squads – brings a mix of excitement and risks.

Children can encounter issues such as gambling-like mechanics, voice chat with strangers, and potential exposure to scams.

This guide breaks down the game's most important features, highlights the key risks to be aware of, and shares practical advice for helping young players stay safe while gaming and interacting online.



For more information, click the image to access the free guide or [click here](#).

Whether you want to report child abuse and neglect or are worried about a child and not sure what to, we have advice for you. Don't wait until you're certain: if you have any concerns or suspicions, contact us or [use the NSPCC website](#) as soon as possible.

