



Monday, 19 January 2026

Dear Parents,

As digital technology continues to develop at extraordinary pace, Leger Education Trust wants to ensure that all our families feel confident in supporting their children to navigate the online world safely. Artificial intelligence (AI) tools, social media platforms and online communities bring exciting opportunities for learning, creativity and connection, but they also introduce new risks that we must work together to manage effectively. This shared approach reflects the Leger Education Trust values of **Pride, Ambition, Integrity and Responsibility**, which underpin our expectations for how our children and young people engage with the digital world and with one another.

AI systems can now generate realistic images, videos and voice clips, making it increasingly difficult, especially for young people, to distinguish genuine material from fabricated content. Recent national reports have raised significant concerns about AI being misused to create harmful or sexualised images involving children, prompting calls for stronger regulation and increased vigilance at home and in schools. With deepfakes becoming more sophisticated, children may encounter content designed to deceive, manipulate or embarrass them. Exposure to violent, sexualised or hateful material online has been linked to a range of emotional and psychological risks for young people, highlighting the need for open conversations at home about checking sources, questioning authenticity and seeking help when something does not seem right.

Alongside concerns about AI, social media continues to present significant challenges. Teachers and safeguarding experts have warned that unregulated access to social platforms can negatively affect children's attention, behaviour, wellbeing and mental health. Evidence indicates that sustained use of social media contributes to reduced concentration, increased anxiety and exposure to harmful content such as cyberbullying, violent material and sexualised imagery. In response to these growing concerns, the UK Government is actively exploring whether to follow Australia in restricting or banning social media use for under-16s.

A wide range of high-quality online-safety and safeguarding resources are available to support families in navigating these challenges. These include national organisations offering practical advice on managing screen time, understanding online risks, supporting children with responsible use of social media and digital devices, and knowing how to report harmful or inappropriate content. Many of these trusted sources also provide parent-friendly guides on topics such as gaming, livestreaming, privacy settings and recognising online manipulation, as well as age-appropriate materials to help you talk to your child about staying safe online. You will find links to these reputable resources at the end of this letter, offering clear, accessible guidance to help you feel informed and confident as you support your child's digital life.


Doncaster Safeguarding Children Partnership- Online Safety

<https://dscp.org.uk/parents-carers/staying-safe-online>

Barnardo's – Keeping Children Safe Online

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/keeping-children-safe-online>

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NSPCC – Online Safety Hub

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety>

UK Safer Internet Centre – Parent Resources

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

Childnet

<https://www.childnet.com/>

SWGfL – Online Safety Guidance for Parents

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/online-safety-guidance-for-parents/>

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership – Online Safety

<https://safeguardingchildren.co.uk/parents-carers/online-safety/>

As a Trust, we continue to embed digital literacy and online-safety education across all our schools, helping students develop the critical-thinking skills needed to evaluate information, recognise harmful or manipulated content and navigate online spaces safely.

The Trust recognises that children and young people now grow up in a digital landscape that is both exciting and challenging. Our role is to work in partnership with families to promote safe, responsible and balanced online behaviour. We ask parents and carers to remain vigilant in monitoring their child's online activity, ensuring that appropriate boundaries, supervision and conversations take place at home. At the same time, it is important that children feel supported, able to ask questions and confident in approaching trusted adults if something online worries or confuses them. By combining clear expectations with a nurturing and open approach, we can help our young people develop the judgement, resilience and digital responsibility they need to navigate the online world safely and confidently.

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our young people informed, confident and safe in the digital world. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further guidance or have concerns about your child's online activity.

Yours sincerely,



Adam Dale

CEO

Leger Education Trust