Internet Safety

Area	Watch Point	Issues	Recommendation
Facebook	Alot of younger children from 1st through 4th class have Facebook accounts.	**The legal age for FB is 13.** Huge potential for youngsters to be exposed to inappropriate adult themes. Potential for bullying and contact from strangers.	**Don't allow children under 13 to have Facebook accounts.**
Snapchat	Many children in school have Snapchat.	**The legal age for Snapchat is 13.** This app has incredible potential for bullying due to the "anonymity" aspect. Children often feel a false sense of security that anything that they send is deleted – It is still stored on Snapchat's servers and identifiable to them.	**Not recommended for kids of primary school age.** Parents can flag underage users by sending an email to support@snapchat.com
Instagram	Sharing of other children's photos/sharing photos publically.	**The legal age for Instagram is 13.** Some kids have photos of them shared **without their permission**.	**Not recommended for kids of primary school age.** If they are using the app, check your child's privacy settings on Instagram to make sure they are

		Some kids had share their photos publically and then have **inappropriate contact from strangers.**	only sharing with selected friends.
Gaming	Some youngsters recount stories of being contacted by strangers through online gaming i.e. x-box etc.	Kids don't often recognise that sharing personal identifiable information about yourself can be dangerous. Some children think that their school etc., is personal information.	Make sure that your kids can only play against other **kids who are known to them**. Check privacy settings
Tablets/Smartphones	Alot of youngsters are accessing the internet on tablets and smartphones in their rooms, away from the family areas.	If there is an issue of bullying, kids will often hide it away but keep re-reading the offensive material. There is more potential for kids to access inappropriate material unintentionally, i.e. on YouTube. Suggestions can very quickly lead away from an initial innocent search to something less appropriate.	It is safer when kids access the internet in common areas of your home. It is easier to detect if there is any issues/ bullying going on. Check the parental controls on any devices so kids are playing safely on the internet.
Cyber Bullying	Kids generally underestimated the impact of what they say and do on the internet. 'I was only messing'.	Cyber-bullying can be more harrowing for victims, as **anything written can be re-read over and over again**.	Regularly check your children's devices **so that you can pick up on any issues very early and deal with them quickly.**

| | | Also the knowledge that it may be on public view makes this worse. | |