

Online Safety in the Classroom

How teachers can build safer digital habits and respond well when a learner is harmed online.

What to teach

- **Privacy:** protecting personal information, passwords and location
- **Respect:** kindness online, and what cyberbullying looks like
- **Critical thinking:** spotting scams, fake news and deepfakes
- **Healthy relationships:** online friendships, pressure to share images, consent
- **Getting help:** who to tell, how to block and report

Good classroom practice

- Agree clear rules for class and school WhatsApp groups, and keep adult-learner contact on official channels.
- Build online safety into everyday lessons, not just one-off talks.
- Use real scenarios learners recognise from their own lives.
- No internet? Use offline activities such as games, role-play and discussion.

Signs a learner may be at risk

- Distress, withdrawal or falling grades
- Being excluded or targeted in group chats
- Talking about an older online "friend" or receiving gifts
- Fear about images being shared

If a learner tells you

1. **Listen calmly** and reassure them they did the right thing.
2. Don't promise to keep it secret. Explain who you will tell.
3. **Never view, copy or forward sexual images**, even as evidence.
4. Write down what was said, in their words.
5. Inform your head teacher or safeguarding lead the same day.
6. Contact the **CyberClinic Helpline on 267** for guidance and referral.

Support from GISF

- **iLearn2Teach:** online safety training and curriculum for teachers
- **Digital Safety SmartBox:** hands-on toolkit for the classroom
- **Cybersafety Ambassadors:** peer champions in your school