Online Safety Tips for Teachers

- **Understand your school's online safety policy**
  Every school should have its own safeguarding policy, which will include a full section on online safety (or "e-safety"). Teachers should ideally have access to a copy of the online safety policy at all times and should understand the expectations placed upon them with regards to keeping children safe online.

- **Do not accept friend requests from students or their families**
  In the same way that you wouldn't invite your students to your house for a party, avoid accepting friend requests or connecting with your students online. Your own reputation is at risk, and it's likely that your personal online profiles contain a lot of information you wouldn't like your students to have access to. Keep it professional and adjust your privacy settings to prevent students (and the rest of the general public) from viewing anything you post online.

- **Be mindful of what you post on your personal social media**
  As well as avoiding friend requests and keeping your online accounts private from students, you should also pay close attention to the content you post online. Remember that every like, comment, and photo will stay on the internet forever. If it got into the wrong hands, would you be happy to see your posts distributed around school, in front of your students, colleagues, and employers? Maybe best to ask your friends *not* to tag you in those old photos from your university freshers' week all those years ago...!

- **Make online safety a regular topic of discussion**
  Online safety should be something that you integrate into daily practice at work, so don't leave the conversation for special occasions. Try to find ways of bringing the topic of online safety into the classroom as much as possible. Talk with your students about the current online trends and let them take the lead on discussion about how certain internet challenges may be harmful, or the ways in which they can protect themselves online.

- **Remember that the internet isn't all bad**
  For all the risks it may pose, always remember that the internet is a huge resource full of educational, social, and recreational possibilities. It's an ever-evolving part of your students' daily lives and it is only going to become more

important as they grow older, so any conversations you have about online safety should be accepting of this fact. Just like in the real world, there is risk everywhere, but rather than trying to avoid it altogether, guide your students to navigate safely around these risks so that they can make the most out of their online experience.

- **Keep up to date with regular online safety training**
  It should go without saying that you need to refresh your online safety training regularly in order to keep up to date with the latest government guidance and the fast-changing online landscape.