

Guidance for Parents & Carers Online Tutors

Every year, private tutors help children catch up with missed work, address an area they are struggling in or teach extra-curricular activities. Lockdown has led to a major growth in this area, especially online, and this is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

There are various ways of finding a tutor, such as doing an online search, responding to an advertisement leaflet or by taking recommendations. There are, however, no legal requirements for a private tutor to have any formal checks and there are no registration procedures. Given that anyone can become a tutor and, with a worrying rise in online abuse during lockdown, what can you do to ensure your children can learn and stay safe? LGfL have prepared the leaflet below to help parents and carers select the right tutor, establish clear rules and help their child understand what they should do too. Parents may have justified concerns and feel ill equipped to check, but with a few simple steps, they can play an important role, and you can have peace of mind.

ONLINE TUTORS KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

YOU MIGHT GET A TUTOR FROM SCHOOL, THE NATIONAL TUTORING PROGRAMME, A GOOGLE SEARCH OR A RECOMMENDATION. BUT ANYONE CAN CALL THEMSELVES A TUTOR, SO HOW CAN YOU KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE WHILE THEY CATCH UP?

1) Select the right tutor

- o Get to know them first - ask about qualifications, experience (freelance? umbrella body?) & approach
- o Take up references and speak to them if you can
- o Ask to see a DBS (criminal record) check. NB - private tutors can only get the basic check; (don't let a DBS give you a false sense of security though)
- o Find out which platform they will use and its safety features



2) Establish clear rules

- o Sessions must always be arranged via you; the tutor should not contact your child directly between sessions, send private messages or change communication platform
- o A tutor is not a friend – they should behave in a professional way, like a teacher
- o Sessions must not be recorded without your approval
- o Try to be in the room for all sessions, especially for younger children, and certainly the first time
- o Your child should not join a session from a bedroom. If this is unavoidable, pop in frequently, ensure they are fully dressed at all times, point the camera away from beds & personal information, and blur or change the background



3) Make sure your child knows

- o The rules apply to them and the tutor
- o A tutor is a teacher not a friend
- o Neither tutor nor child should share personal information, private messages or photos & videos
- o They must never meet without your approval or communicate on a different platform
- o Who their trusted adults are at home and school
- o They can tell you if they are asked to keep a secret or anything happens or is said that is strange or makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset

