

Educate, empower & protect the entire school community.

## Dear Principals and Senior Leaders

Whether 'Zooming', chatting on WhatsApp groups or playing games on HouseParty, everyone, young and old, seems to be going online. To be clear, I am in no doubt that is a good thing, as ensuring social distancing doesn't become social isolation is very important. That said, after a lifetime working in this field, I also know that balancing the opportunities and safeguarding challenges in the digital environment is never easy. That is why this Department of Education Northern Ireland (DENI) initiative is so important.

From the very first case review in 1945, to the most up to date reviews reflecting on why children suffered harm; poor information sharing is always a critical issue. That is why this simple App can help make your school community safer. It is a communication and digital safeguarding toolkit, where you need it, when you need it - in your pocket. Everyone who downloads the App and allows push notifications will open a communication channel for important information direct from DENI and online safety alerts from the Safer Schools team based here in NI.

Throughout the App, you will discover age-appropriate fun resources, simple to understand advice and signposting for parents and carers, as well as CPD courses for teachers, school staff and other safeguarding professionals.

I hope we have supplied you with everything you need to provide your staff, parents, carers and wider school community with guidance on how they can download and access the Safer Schools App.

Please feel free to share the parents and carer QR codes on your website or social media and for more information visit [www.ineqe.com/safer-schools-ni](http://www.ineqe.com/safer-schools-ni)

If there is anything we can do to help, if you want to talk about the App, need further help, support, or simply to provide us with your feedback please do not hesitate to call our Head of Safer Schools, Colin Stitt.

Take care and stay safe.

Many Thanks,



**Jim Gamble QPM**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ineqe Safeguarding Group