

It is important to remember that online safety must be considered when using online communications technology. This series of clips will provide some information about the most common issues that are facing children and young people in schools. We will aim to give a brief overview of the issue and then provide links to resources that you might find useful when working with pupils in school.

Passwords are particularly important as they hold the key to our online accounts, emails and much more. Children start using passwords from a very early age, whether to log onto their school account or to access their favourite game, usernames and passwords are something that they are familiar with.

Many young people share their passwords with others, often saying that it is a sign of friendship to share passwords. Research shows that we share passwords too easily, we use the same password for lots of different things and we use passwords which are too simple.

The Luxembourg Safer Internet Centre has developed a tool to test the strength of passwords which is available in French, German and English. Pupils can use the checker to see how long it would take to crack their password and whilst doing so they will pick up tips about how to make a stronger password.

Showing children the top 25 most used passwords is always interesting – some of them will be using these and it is a good opportunity to tell them about the importance of changing passwords and using strong passwords – words that are not in the dictionary.