

Band Runner

Information for parents and carers

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10

Band Runner is a fun interactive game from Thinkuknow that helps 8-10 year olds learn how to stay safe from risks they might encounter online.

Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's child protection command, CEOP.

Thinkuknow education resources aim to give children the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to stay safe online.

The Band Runner game

Featuring characters and safety messages from the Thinkuknow *Play Like Share* animations (www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/watch), *Band Runner* is a fun game that puts children's knowledge about online safety to the test by asking them to help characters make safe choices.

Players can chose to play the game as characters Ellie or Sam who use their guitars to eliminate all obstacles in their path as they run through school in order to make it to their next gig. If players miss a jump or take a tumble they then need to help Alfie solve an online safety dilemma to be able to continue play. As players pass to the next level the running gets faster!

The Thinkuknow website for 8-10 year olds

The *Band Runner* game is hosted within an informative which provides clear and practical safety advice for 8-10 year olds under the following headings:

- Play – Playing games online
- Like – Being kind to others online
- Share – Sharing videos and photos online
- Chat – Talking to others online
- Lock – Keeping information private
- Explore – Exploring the internet



The website also has a 'Worried about something' section offering advice and support to children who are feeling worried, scared or upset about something which has happened online.

How to play *Band Runner* and explore the website with you child

You can visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10 together with your child to play *Band Runner* and explore the online safety advice pages together.

Here are some useful conversation starters and practical activities to help you talk to your child about staying safe online:

- Play *Band Runner* together: you could take it in turns on one device or play at the same time on two devices. After playing, ask your child what they remember about Alfie's online safety dilemmas. Reinforce what they've learned and ask if they've got any questions.
- Ask your child about the games, sites and apps they use. What do they like about them? Is there anything they don't like?
- As you look at each 'Stay Safe' advice page, ask your child what they think about the safety advice? Is it helpful? Is there anything they would add?
- Together, go through the privacy settings for each service they use. Set them to ensure that they are only talking to and sharing things with friends they know and trust in real life.
- If your child enjoys playing games where they interact with people they don't know, make sure they understand that it is not safe to share personal information like their name, school, and phone number. Explain that if anyone ever says anything that worries or upsets them, they should tell you or another trusted adult straight away.
- Together, find out how to block and report someone in each game, sites and app they use.
- If your child likes sharing photos or videos with people they know in real life discuss safer ways they could do this e.g. sending via email, messaging service or private link.
- Reassure your child that if anything happens to them online that makes them worried, scared or upset they can tell you or another adult they trust, like a teacher and that you will help them.

You can also find lots of advice and support about keeping your child safe online at the Thinkuknow Parents and Carers Website: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

