



Advice for Parents: E-Safety



You can also contact the school's Designated Lead for Safeguarding John Harvey

Staying Safe On-line – E-safety Advice for Parents

Parents and carers play a key role in supporting children to learn about how to stay safe online, and they are one of the first people children turn to if things go wrong. We know it can be difficult to stay on top of the wide range of sites and devices that young people use, so we hope that the following advice helps.

- ✓ **Be involved in your child's online life.** For many of today's young people there is no line between the online and offline worlds. Young people use the internet to socialise and grow and, just as you guide and support them offline, you should be there for them online too. Talk to them about what they're doing, if they know you understand they are more likely to approach you if they need support.
- ✓ **E-safety Websites like Thinkuknow have short films which can help you to learn more.** The Thinkuknow programme has **films and advice for children** from five all the way to 16. They can also be a good tool for you to find out more about what young people do online and some of the potential risks.
- ✓ **Keep up-to-date with your child's development online.** Be inquisitive and interested in the new gadgets and sites that your child is using. It's important that as your child learns more, so do you.
- ✓ **Set boundaries in the online world just as you would in the real world.** Think about what they might see, what they share, who they talk to and how long they spend online. It is important to continue to discuss boundaries so that they evolve as your child's use of technology does. Your child may be at risk because of their own behaviour, for example, by sharing too much information or inappropriate images of themselves.
- ✓ **Know what connects to the internet and how.** Nowadays even the TV connects to the internet. Your child will use all sorts of devices and gadgets; make sure you're aware of which ones can connect to the internet, such as their phone or games console. Also, find out how they are accessing the internet – is it your connection or a neighbour's Wifi? This will affect whether your safety settings are being applied.
- ✓ **Consider the use of parental controls on devices that link to the internet, such as the TV, laptops, computers, games consoles and mobile phones.** Parental controls are not just about locking and blocking, they are a tool to help you set appropriate boundaries as your child grows and develops. They are not the answer to your child's online safety, but they are a good start and are not as difficult to install as you might think. Service providers are working hard to make them simple, effective and user friendly.
- ✓ **Emphasise that not everyone is who they say they are.** Make sure your child knows never to meet up with someone they only know online. People might not always be who they say they are. Make sure your child understands that they should never meet up with anyone they only know online without taking a trusted adult with them

If you have any concerns or want further advice in relation to your child's on-line safety and on-line activity, then please follow the links to the following websites:

www.saferinternet.org.uk

www.childsnet.com

www.thinkyounow.co.uk

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