



Guide to Online Safety for Parents

In light of the outbreak of COVID-19, there has been a greater need for e-learning as the majority of the children will be accessing learning materials online. This means that children will be spending more time on electronic devices and using the internet more than they normally would do so. Unfortunately, this will inevitably lead to pupils being more regularly exposed to risks associated with being online such as bullying, grooming, extremism and sexual exploitation. The safety of our children is paramount and as a school we take all necessary steps to safeguard all of our pupils from any potential risks.

Below is a guide to how you as parents/carers can support your child staying safe online.

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS

It is inevitable that pupils will want to have some form of social contact with friends and family through this tough time as the internet can be a great way to stay connected.

However, it is important that children know who they are speaking to.

All forms of social media have age restrictions and therefore primary school children should not have their own social media accounts. Gaming is another form of connecting with people around the world, so please ensure that parental controls are set for this too.

An easy way to ensure that your children are safe when connecting with people online is to go through the friends lists and verify all people on there. Sometimes people are not always who they say they are and use these platforms to gain personal information about the child which can lead to bullying, grooming and exploitation.

SHARING INFORMATION

Make sure your children do not share any personal information online. Even small things such as posting what school they attend leaves children extremely vulnerable to those that may be out to cause harm.

Children also need to be made aware of their digital footprint and how posting online is never anonymous. As well as being vulnerable themselves, they need to understand the harm they can cause through what they post online.

AGE APPROPRIATE CONTENT

We understand that children and parents will need time to adjust to learning and working from home. Children may seek out ways to keep themselves entertained, this maybe through browsing the internet, watching videos online, gaming and social networking. Please ensure children are still supervised during these times and the content they are being exposed to is age appropriate. Children need to know that if they come across inappropriate content they must report this to you.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. ENSURE CHILDREN ARE SUPERVISED WHILST ONLINE
2. ENSURE PARENTAL RESTRICTIONS ARE IN PLACE
3. TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT THE DANGERS AND RISKS OF THE INTERNET
4. CHECK ALL CONTACTS ON YOUR CHILDREN'S FRIENDS LISTS
5. ENSURE CHILDREN KNOW WHAT TO DO IF THEY COME ACROSS INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT OR SOMETHING THAT MAKES THEM FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE
6. SET TIME LIMITS FOR ONLINE USAGE MAKING SURE CHILDREN HAVE A BREAK

USEFUL LINKS

Tips for parents - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Setting up parental controls - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

Social Media Age Restrictions - <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking/>

Advice about online bullying - <https://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/what-is-cyberbullying/>

Reporting material promoting Extremism - <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>

Reporting in appropriate contact by a stranger - <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>