11/1/2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

E-Safety information for parents/carers

E-Safety is an important part of keeping children safe online. We have security measures in place in school, which are constantly monitored, to help safeguard pupils from any potential dangers. E-Safety is taught to all pupils, explaining and demonstrating how to stay safe and behave appropriately.

We can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you to ensure the e-Safety message is consistent. Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep safe and behave appropriately online. The widespread availability and use of social media sites brings opportunities to understand, engage and communicate with audiences in new ways. It is important that we are able to use these technologies and services effectively and flexibly. You may find your children asking to engage with technology that you have no knowledge or experience of.

Children are accessing a greater amount of content online, far more than we were ever exposed to in our childhood. Remember that services like Facebook, Snapchat and YouTube have a minimum age limit of 13. They do this for a reason. However, if you choose to allow your children to have these accounts, then you will want to discuss with them the boundaries you expect. We have spoken to children in school about sharing their password with you, in order to keep them safe.

You may find children can accidently or deliberately be exposed to unwanted or unpleasant content or comments online and there are steps you can take at home to minimise this risk.

What can parents/carers do?

Ground Rules

• Discuss as a family how the internet will be used in your house. Consider what should be kept private online (personal information, photos etc.) and decide rules for making and meeting online friends. Make sure you know what your child is doing online much like you would offline.

Online Safety

 • Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to block unsuitable content or contact

 • Remember that parental control tools are not always 100% effective and sometimes, unsuitable content can get past them, so don't rely on them alone to protect your child.

Location

• Think about locating your computer in a supervised family area. Always supervise the use of webcams in an application, which allows voice or video chat. Consider your child's use of other devices that allow internet access such as Mobile Phones and Games Consoles.

Dialogue

 • Talk to your child and ask them to show or even teach you how they use the internet, learn which websites or tools they like to use and why. Learning together can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour with your child.

 • Always ensure your child knows how to block or report people online who send nasty or inappropriate messages or content.

Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply.

• **Make sure your child knows to tell an adult they trust if they see something online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.**

 • It's essential to be realistic - banning the internet or technology will not work and it often makes a child less likely to report a problem. Education around safe use is essential.

We are teaching children to follow these Golden Rules!

1. Use a nickname, not your real name when online.

2. Keep your personal information safe, share with only people you know.

 3. Use websites that are suitable for your age and remember that you are still talking to strangers.

 4. Be nice to others online, in the way you would expect other people to be nice to you.

5. **Tell an adult if you see or hear something that you think is not right.**

 Websites for more information:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk – Visit the "Parent/Carer" Section and use the "Click CEOP" button to seek advice

www.childnet.com – Visit the 'Know It All' Section for an interactive guide about online safety

www.getsafeonline.org – Free up-to-date security advice, age specific advice
http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/0/ - This is an archived site from the BBC

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/ - Excellent advice about Internet Safety

As a school, we understand that this information is nothing new for the majority of parents/carers and that many of you will already have sensible measures in place to protect your children online. It is not our intention to be patronising, or to tell you how to parent. However, it is our duty of care to ensure that our pupils are safe and this includes being safe online.   Even with the best will in the world, it is still possible for children to access sites that parents are not aware of, or for settings to not be set up correctly. This letter is a useful reminder for us all. If you require any further information about e-safety and how to keep your child safe online, we have uploaded some useful information on our school website and have also included several links to further information and support.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. K. Brookes – Deputy Head teacher.