

ONLINE SAFETY POLICY

Summary for Parents



Parents play an essential role in the education of their children and in the monitoring / regulation of the children's on-line usage. Due to the ever-evolving Digital World, adults can sometimes be unsure of how to respond to online risks and issues. They may also underestimate how often pupils encounter potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.

Therefore, it is essential that all adults should:

- Promote safe and responsible online practice and must support the school by adhering to the school's Safeguarding and Online Safety Policy in relation to digital and video images taken whilst on school premises or at school events.
- Understand and acknowledge their child's Acceptable Use Policy for school.
- Ensure your child does not bring nor use their own devices to school.
- Monitor and take responsibility for their child's online activity whilst in their care.

ADVICE TO HELP KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE WHILST AT HOME

- Enable access to devices with limited features. Device usage for primary age children is best kept to devices with limited capability. This could include tablets without data and non-smart phones that only allow calls and texts. Primary aged children should not be able to access all of Youtube!
- Keep tech use visible in the home - Try to keep tech use in shared family spaces. This will allow you to support your child and be more aware of what they are doing online. Keep devices out of their rooms overnight!
- Follow age ratings - Apps, sites and games come with age ratings which are important to follow and there for a reason. You can find out the age rating on the website for the platform or by visiting Common Sense Media's reviews.
- Use safety settings and parental controls. Keep checking these regularly to make sure they remain in place.
- Have regular safety conversations - if your child is using a device, then e-safety conversations should be happening regularly. There is good advice about how to start conversations at on the NSPCC website.
- Build healthy habits - acknowledge the positives it brings as part of your safety conversations and agree rules and boundaries together as a family. Start those healthy habits now!

(Advice from NSPCC keeping children safe online)

To support the school community, school will provide information and awareness through:

- letters, newsletters, website links
- Parents / Carer workshops
- Continued online safety education in school
- high profile events / campaigns e.g. Safer Internet Day

Please talk to us if you need further signposts to guidance about online safety.

Parents have responsibility for their child's online activity outside school.