



IMPORTANT: Keeping your child safe online

October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

E-Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Windmill Primary School. We have extensive security measures in place in school, which are monitored both internally and externally, to help safeguard pupils from potential dangers or unsuitable material. Any e-Safety incidents are recorded and managed in accordance with our e-Safety Policy (available to view and download on our website). E-Safety is taught to all pupils explaining and demonstrating how to stay safe and behave appropriately online, both at school and at home.

However, we need your help too.

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. Children can accidentally 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 IT IS NOT ONLY COMPUTERS THAT CAN ACCESS THE INTERNET.** 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. Also, children are pretty clever and can work out ways around them!

Location

Locate your computer/laptop/devices in a supervised family area. Always supervise the use of webcams and applications which allow voice or video chat. Consider your child's use of other devices that allow internet access such as Mobile Phones and Games Consoles. **This is of crucial importance.**



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.**

KIDS YOUTUBE! Did you know that this exists? Youtube, just for children. Get your children to use this when watching videos on line. <https://kids.youtube.com/>

Websites for more information:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk – Visit the “Parent/Carer” Section and use the “Click CEOP” button to seek advice and report online abuse

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

<http://clickcleverclicksafe.direct.gov.uk> – Click Clever Click Safe Campaign

www.bbc.co.uk/onlinesafety

www.cybermentors.org.uk – Online support for children

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety - Helpful advice and tools you can use to help keep your child safe online

At this time of year, you may be considering the purchase of new technology for your child(ren) for Christmas presents; this is an ideal opportunity to review internet access and discuss internet safety as a family.

Please contact us immediately if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Matt Coleman
Principal