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Dear Parents and Carers

At school, we take the safety of our pupils very seriously, including their online safety whilst they access the internet at school. The children are taught how to keep safe online and our school firewalls block inappropriate sites.

Unfortunately, we are experiencing an increase in the number of online incidents reported by parents of issues originating from the home. These incidents stem from the use of various electronic devices including; tablets, mobile phones, computers, PS3, PS4 and Xbox.

- Children are using messaging applications or group chats to have inappropriate conversations, using inappropriate language.
- Children with free access to the internet are venturing onto sites, which are inappropriate both in terms of age restrictions and in terms of content.
- Children are playing games which have a PEGI rating which is above their age, which has led to an increase of the use of sexualised language at school

Where school is alerted to an online incident, we then deal with these issues because we know that these incidents have a number of consequences: Peer relationships are affected as is the children's learning. They do not come into school ready to learn. Anxiety, anger, blame, sadness, frustration, jealousy, disappointment, insecurity are just some of the feelings exhibited by the children when they have become involved in an inappropriate online incident.

We are dealing with an unprecedented number of incidents which stem from home internet use.

Therefore, we are sharing some tips and resources to help you guide your children and help you keep up to date in a digital world. The children's world is on line and off line and they see no distinction between the two worlds. Please support school by helping your child to stay safe online.



Here are a number of various sites and tips to help you keep your children safe online:

Internet Matters has a number of resources for different age groups 0-5, 6-10, 11-13, 14+
www.internetmatters.org

Think u know is a good place to start. You will see the report abuse button that your child will know about from school.
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Another site for parent controls is **UK Safer Internet Centre**
(<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers>)

This site advises you to take four steps:

1. Have **ongoing conversations** with your children about staying safe online.
2. Use **safety tools** on social networks and other online services, e.g. Facebook privacy settings.
3. Decide if you want to use **parental controls** on your home internet.
4. Understand devices and the **parental control** tools they offer in our Parents' Guide to Technology.

Technology Rule Sharing with the wider family

Children spend time at other people's houses so please **share your technology rules with grandparents, babysitters and older siblings, so that they stick to them when they look after your child or use the family computer.**

The rules and conversations you have now will set the tone for your child's internet use as they get older. It is vital that we support children in responsible use of technology and how to be safe and considerate when online.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe.

Hannah Travers

Assistant Headteacher

