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Ensuring an excellent child-centred education within a Christ centred philosophy

E-Safety Newsletter

Term 2

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the second of our termly newsletters on E-Safety. Our aim throughout this year is to provide you with practical, straight-forward tips and advice in order to ensure that your child is safe online.

As a parent/carer you'll probably know how important the internet is to children and young people. They use it to learn, play, socialise and express themselves in all types of creative ways. This may be through sharing photos and videos, blogging, gaming, or even developing their own apps. It is a place of amazing opportunities which we would encourage you to embrace.

The technology children use in their daily lives can be daunting. You might worry about the risks they can face online, such as bullying, contact from strangers, as well as the possibility of access to inappropriate or illegal content. To help them stay safe, it's important that you understand how your child uses the internet.

Inside:
**Keeping your child safe online – A checklist for parents
and carers**

Keeping your Child Safe Online – A Checklist for Parents and Carers

By following this simple checklist, you can start to protect your child and decrease the risks they face:

1. I have asked my child to show me the sites they use.



MINICLIP.COM
FREE GAMES AND SHOWS

By asking your child to share the sites they use, they are including you in their online life and social activity. Show an interest and take note of the names of their favourite sites. You can then re-visit these when you are alone.

Take time to explore the websites, find out how to set the safety features and learn how to report any issues directly to the site.

You may be surprised at what you discover! For example, did you know that children under the age of 13 are NOT allowed to use Facebook?

2. I have asked my child to set their profile settings to private.

Social networking sites are used by children to share information, photos and just about everything they do!

Encourage your child to set their privacy settings to private. The way to do this may differ from one site to the next but look for key phrases/icons such as:



/ My Settings / Account Settings /



Children need to think about the information they post online as it could be copied and pasted anywhere, without their permission. If it got into the wrong hands, somebody may wish to use it against them or worst of all try to locate them in the real world.

3. I have asked my child about their online friends.

We know that people lie online about who they are and may create fake identities. It is very important for children to understand this.



Whether they are visiting a social networking or a gaming site, the safety messages are the same. Children and young people must NEVER give out personal information and only be “friends” with people they know and trust in the real world.

Elements of a profile as innocent as a school photograph can reveal to strangers valuable information regarding identity and location. Be careful who you’re showing it to!

4. I have set appropriate parental controls on my child’s computer, mobile and games console.



Filters on computers and mobiles can prevent your child from viewing inappropriate and possibly illegal content. Options available to you include:

- Changing security levels depending on your child’s age.
- Changing security levels depending on your child’s ability.
- Setting time restrictions for internet use and games.

Most of these are free and easy to install/perform. (See the Term 1 E-Safety newsletter for more details.) Explain to your child why you are setting parental controls when you talk to them about their internet use.

5. My child has agreed to tell me if they are worried about something online.

Sometimes children get into situations online where they don't feel comfortable or see something they don't want to see. The use of 'Hector the Protector' in school allows children to cover up anything inappropriate before talking to an adult about it:



**Have you
downloaded
Hector?**

By opening up the communication channels and talking to your child about the internet, their favourite sites and the risks they may encounter, they are more likely to turn to you if they are concerned about something

6. I know where to get help if I'm concerned about my child.



The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Safety Centre (CEOP) provide access to a range of services. If you are concerned that an adult has made inappropriate contact with your child you can report this directly to CEOP. You can also find help if you think your child is being bullied, or if you've come across something on the internet which you think may be illegal.

To report abuse, simply click on the CEOP button (available on many social networking sites) or visit the Safety Centre at:

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

The list of websites which remain popular with children is constantly evolving. By talking to your children you can help keep up to speed with any changes and ensure that they enjoy their time online safely. If there is anything that we can help with in school or anything that you feel we should know about, please don't hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Yours sincerely,

S Groves