E-safety

The use of the internet is in every area of our adult and our children's lives. It is a fabulous tool and has a mostly positive impact in our day-to-day lives. However, we do have to be mindful of some of the negative aspects of the internet, which is where E-safety comes in.

E-safety is an integral part of children's education in today's digital world and is embedded in their learning at school. We also want to help our parents, carers and children improve their own understanding of e-safety issues so they can learn to use the internet and all digital media in a safe and secure way.

E Safety at School

As part of your child's curriculum and the development of ICT skills, we provide access to the internet. We strongly believe that the use of the web is hugely worthwhile and an essential tool for children as they grow up in the modern world. As there are always concerns about children having access to undesirable materials, we have taken positive steps to deal with this risk in school. Our school internet access provider operates a filtering system that restricts access to inappropriate materials. As an extra tool we also use a monitoring tool to monitor what all users of the internet in school are typing (keyboard captures) and viewing whilst using the internet.

At the start of the school year, each class discusses how we can all stay safe online and the dangers we may face on the internet. We also use a range of lesson materials to teach e-safety across the school year e.g. The Jigsaw PSHE curriculum, Googles 'Be Internet Legends' lesson plans, the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the UK Safer Internet centres materials. These cover a wide range of areas such as how to stay safe, what to look out for, how to behave online, cyberbullying, how to report issues and/or other people and digital well-being.

We also take part in E-safety week every year and our year 6 children take part in an annual online awareness workshop delivered by Dan Hawbrook who is the E-safety officer for Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board.

We have an e-safety policy and acceptable use policies that all staff and pupils have to adhere too. Our staff also undertake e-safety training in school.

Encouraging Online Safety At Home

As a parent/carer you'll know how important the internet is to children - they use it to learn, play, socialise and express themselves. It's a highly creative place of amazing opportunities. The technology children use every day can increasingly seem a bit daunting and you might worry about the risks your child can face online - such as bullying, contact from strangers or the possibility of them seeing illegal or inappropriate content.

Across the school year, we will share the latest guidance from a variety of sources that will, hopefully, help support you and your children in their safe use of the internet via our various apps-Parenthub, Twitter, Facebook and the school website.

Staying engaged with your child regarding their use of the internet is really important. Here are some conversation starter ideas from www.childnet.com:

- Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.
- Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?
- Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.
- Encourage them to help. Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
- Think about how you use the internet as a family. What could you do to get more out of the internet together and further enjoy your lives online

It's important to remember that the legal age to have an account on most social media platforms e.g. Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat is 13 years old and WhatsApp is 16. We realise that many primary age children access and use these and other accounts with similar age restrictions on a regular basis, which is why we, and hopefully you, as parents/carers share the key safety messages and ways to teach children and adults how to use sensibly, safely and also what to do if things go wrong.

Useful websites

https://www.internetmatters.org/ A website that supports helping parents keep their children safe online

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/ UK Safer Internet Centre is a partnership of three leading charities with a mission to make the internet a better place for children and young people.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/ Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.

www.netaware.com – NSPCC run site which helps parents understand the latest technology and apps used by children and young people

www.childline.org.uk – Offers and online and phone based counselling and support service. Will not appear on phone bills and is a Freephone number – 0800 1111

 CEOP also offer an online 'Report Abuse' button which can be accessed at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.samaritans.org – Samaritans offer a safe place to talk and is available for anyone to contact, either through their website or by phone on 116 123