

18th November 2021

Dear Parents,

RE: E Safety in Year 6

Dear parents and carers,

It has come to our attention that many Year 6 pupils are using their devices to access social media outside of school and communicate with their friends outside of school hours. Whilst this is a great way for them to communicate, there have been a few incidents recently that have resulted in children feeling worried and upset, due to the nature of the conversations taking place. It is very important that as parents you are aware of their online activity and monitor it accordingly. Also, children must be reminded to always keep conversations friendly and kind, using appropriate language at ALL times.

In school, children learn about ways to stay safe online. Keeping young people safe online can seem like a daunting task but having a conversation about ways to keep safe is a great start. No one is an expert in the internet as it is moving at such a fast pace. Below are also some useful tips on how you can keep your children safe online.

We also really recommend you have a look at Childnet International online, which has some useful resources.

- **Set fair and consistent rules** in relation to your child's internet use at home. As they get older, try to agree to the rules with them so that they have some control over their digital world.
- **Teach your child to think critically about what they see, read or hear online.** For young children encourage them to ask "what would mum or dad say about that"? As they get older they need to be able to assess for themselves whether they are in a risky online place and whether the information they are receiving is reliable and helpful to them.
- **Maintain a positive outlook on your child's use of the internet.** Whatever you think of the stuff they watch or the hours they spend on Instagram or Youtube, if you constantly criticise the apps or games they love, they are not going to want to talk to you about their online life. Remember if something happens online at home don't get mad, get curious.
- Children who can **recover from an online mistake** can learn and avoid making the same mistake again. You can help by making it easy for them to talk to you about their mishaps. Try and keep calm and carry on! Think carefully about blocking apps or websites. This can exacerbate the problem. Making sure they know where to go for help if they need it, and recognising if they are not recovering well so you can step in and help. Don't forget parents can also talk to their child's school about online safety.
- **Allow your child to explore and take charge of their online life.** Having some control over any given situation is an important part of resilience – and such an important part of digital resilience. It's essential in helping them understand and develop their own sense of what's right and wrong online.

Children in Year 6 have been spoken to this week about their digital responsibility and reminded that **once you write/ post something online, it is always there.** It is very important that they think before they act online. We have reminded them that if they are ever worried about anything, there is the worry button online on their google classroom or they can report it to an adult. Year 6 is a significant year in their education and it involves lots of learning and responsibilities within school. I reminded them that they are role models in school so they need to show kindness in their face to face and online interactions with each other. I reminded them that it is important to limit the amount of time they have on devices to look after their mental health and wellbeing.



Please be aware of the age limit to the apps your child may be using and click the link below to find out about gaming ratings.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/>

3 great apps to download:

- [Net-aware](#) aimed at parents highlighting different apps and games young people use.
- [Internet Matters](#) (tablet only) is a fun interactive online safety quiz that can be used at home with children.
- [Youtube](#) for kid's app aimed at young children

We will be holding e-safety workshops for parents in the near future. If you have any specific questions, please contact me via the school office.

Thank you for your support,

Yours sincerely,

Ms Moxom
Acting Assistant Headteacher