

## Online Safety

A guide to help you and your child explore the Internet safely and with confidence.



In the current climate schools are using different platforms to send home homework and for children to access learning remotely if and when needed. Remote education ensure continuous learning outside of the classroom. School links with parents and carers during this time can also be used to reinforce the importance of children staying safe online.

Online 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 and children improve their own understanding of online safety issues so they can learn to use the internet and all digital media in a safe and secure way.

### At School

As part of your child's curriculum and the development of computer skills, we provide access to the internet only in teacher supervised lessons. We strongly believe that the use of the web and email is hugely worthwhile and an essential tool for children as they grow up in the modern world. But because 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. Children also learn the importance of Online Safety through PSHE and Computing curriculum throughout the school year.

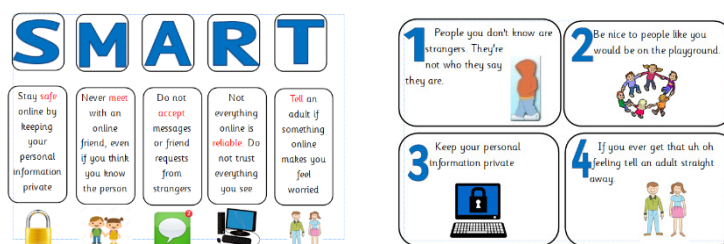
At the start of the school year, each class discusses how we can all stay safe online and the dangers we may face on the internet. We then ask every child to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement so that we know they have read and understood our school's SMART rules on staying safe.

Before the children are permitted to use the Internet at school, we ask parents for:

**Consent:** On our consent form, parents are asked whether they consent for their child to use computer equipment and the Internet in school

**Parent and child agreement:** Parents are asked to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement with their child.

In the agreement, the **children** are asked to follow our SMART Rules:



## **At Home**

As a parent, 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. However the technology children use every day can 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.

It is vital to engage with your children regarding their use of the internet while at home. Here are some conversation starter ideas from [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

- Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online and who are their friends on sites/apps?
- 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, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.
- Encourage them to help. Understand devices. Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online.
- 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?

Further advice includes:

### **Put yourself in control**

Make use of the parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or by visiting [internetmatters.org](http://internetmatters.org).

### **Search safely**

Use safe search engines such as [swiggle.org.uk](http://swiggle.org.uk) or [kiddle.co](http://kiddle.co) Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines as well as YouTube.

### **Set and Agree boundaries**

It's never too early to start setting rules about when and for how long your child can use devices. Be clear what your child can and can't do online – where they can use the internet, how much time they can spend online, the sites they can visit and the type of information they can share. Agree with your child when they can have a mobile phone or tablet. Encourage children to use devices in a communal area, keep other devices out of reach and use passwords so they can't go online without asking you first

### **Explore together**

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to ask them to tell you about it. Encourage them to use devices in communal areas so you can see what sites they're visiting and share with them

### **Check if it's suitable**

The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. The minimum age limit is 13 for several social networking sites.

The website links below are designed for parents to access simple, easy and practical advice about online safety for their children, right through from pre-school to teens. It provides tips on protecting children from online grooming, cyberbullying, privacy and identity theft and inappropriate content.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

**Remember-** Children can now have a digital footprint before they learn to speak and often before they're even born.

### **Build good habits**

When young children are using technology encourage them to Ask, Check, Share, Change to do something else after a short period of time, Be Kind, Tell when worried or something unexpected happens.



**If you have any concerns or worries about your child and online safety and would like further advice, please contact school and a member of staff will be happy to help.**