



ONLINE SAFETY



This week, KS2 children received a timely reminder about staying safe online with an assembly aimed at starting a conversation about the internet.

Despite restrictive age limits, we know that primary-age children have social media profiles and talk to people online through social networks and games consoles. Keeping children safe has been on the media agenda recently after high profile cyberbullying news stories, with calls to tackle online harm to both government and the social media companies themselves.

Until this happens, it is down to parents and schools to educate and inform children of the benefits and dangers of the online world, and most importantly maintaining an open dialogue with children about their internet use.

Not sure where to begin? These conversation starters could help:

1 Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.

2 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?

3 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.

4 Encourage them to help someone! 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.

5 Think about how you each use the internet. What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

There is a wealth of support online if you would like further information, including:

www.childnet.com

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.kidsmart.org.uk

www.saferinternet.org.uk

A recent study found that by the age of 8, children have spent one full year sitting in front of a screen! Make the most of the fine weather and long evenings. Search for change4life for great outdoor activity ideas and enjoy the summer!



If you have any concerns over communication online, look for the CEOP symbol on our website.



You can also make a completely anonymous report about any issues you may have using the 'whisper' link, look for the symbol on our website.



BE SMART ONLINE



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SAFE

Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.



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MEET

Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

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.CO.UK

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ACCEPTING

Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.



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RELIABLE

You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.



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TELL

Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline - 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk



BE SMART WITH A HEART

Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

