

Online Safety - March 2021

Well done to everyone for surviving the latest Covid lockdown. It hasn't been easy but you've made it and the children are very happy to be back in school!

Congratulations!

This seems a very timely opportunity to review how online learning has changed and evolved within the last year, within school and within your family settings. From getting to grips with scheduled Teams and Zoom meetings, to downloading and uploading work and even 1:1 online tutoring sessions with members of staff.

This academic year, we have already had online safety week which looked at staying safe online.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/safer-internet-day-resources/z6bbhbk

(scroll down to 'Primary' videos).

We reminded the children not to share their usernames and passwords with others, not to talk to strangers online and not to give out personal information to others.



Now that school has opened to everyone, you probably never want to see a computer again! However, this is absolutely the right time to check and update your parental controls, ensure that devices have been updated and check you have adequate malware/anti-virus software.

Please take some time to look at https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides

These parent friendly guides give you a very simple, but important overview of the main apps and games children are accessing at the moment and the dangers involved.

There is also the national online safety app which you can download to your phone or tablet - https://info.nationalonlinesafety.com/mobile-app

Age ratings are our biggest, current topic of discussion – please remember, your Infant School child should not be accessing movies or online games unsuitable for their age.



Children should not be accessing YouTube unsupervised. YouTube Kids is a much child friendlier version. Although 'YouTubers are cool', their content is not always age appropriate and, in several recent news stories, they have actually led to fake news and online hoaxes becoming a safeguarding concern. Please take the time to screen what your child is accessing and viewing.

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10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the



CHECK AGE-RATINGS



CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



SPEND TIME ON THE APP

what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE





SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.



www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter-@natonlinesafety Facebook-/NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

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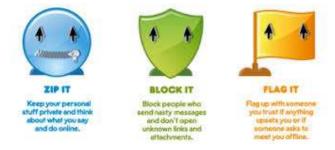
Please remember – it is NOT appropriate for children at the Infant School OR Junior School to be playing age 18 rated games such as Call of Duty Black Ops or Grand Theft Auto. This includes watching siblings or parents play the game!

These games contain violence, swearing, nudity and crime related activities and are rated 18 for a reason.

Most social media accounts have an age restriction on them of 13 years old. Young children should not be accessing WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat or Instagram.



Children at Turnfurlong Infant School are very computer literate and understand that in school our filtering systems do not allow inappropriate content through. At home however, they may be able to download apps, games and YouTube content which could cause distress if parental controls are not set appropriately.



Please help us to keep your children safe!