



Dobcroft Junior School

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Online Safety Reminders

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Online Safety is an important part of keeping children safe. At school, we have safeguarding measures in place to help protect pupils from any potential dangers. Online Safety is also taught to all pupils explaining and demonstrating how to stay safe and behave appropriately online.

To ensure children are fully safeguarded, Online Safety messages are also reinforced and delivered at home. Your support is needed to ensure that children keep safe and behave appropriately online. The widespread availability and use of both social networking apps and the internet bring fantastic opportunities to understand, engage and communicate, however it is important that children are able to use these technologies and services safely, responsibly and effectively.

Children are accessing a greater amount of content online and it's important for parents to have an understanding of what services children are accessing and the potential risks that they pose. We encourage open dialogue within the home about what websites and apps the children are using, and who they are communicating with and what boundaries are expected when using the internet. Children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to unwanted or unpleasant content or comments online and there are steps can be taken at home to minimise this risk.

What can parents/carers do? There are so many pieces of advice that can be provided about this area - but here are some key points to consider. Many others can be found on the web links below the advice.

Ground Rules

- Discuss as a family how the internet will be used in your house. Consider what should be kept private online (personal information, photos etc.) and decide rules for making and meeting online friends. Make sure you know what your child is doing online in the same way as you would offline.

Filtering

- Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use any Parental Control functions available for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to block unsuitable content or contact
- Remember that parental control tools are not always 100% effective and sometimes, unsuitable content can get past them, so don't rely on them alone to protect your child.

Monitoring

- Check in on your child's phone on a regular basis, gauging the content and tone of messages and use of the internet.
- Think about locating your computer in a supervised family area. Always supervise the use of webcams in an application, which allows voice or video chat.
- Consider your child's location when they use other devices that allow internet access such as Mobile Phones and Games Consoles.
- Ensure that access to technology is withdrawn before your child goes to bed.

Dialogue

- Talk to your child and ask them to show or even teach you how they use the internet, learn which websites or tools they like to use and why. Learning together can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour with your child.
- Discuss with your child what is safe and appropriate to post and share online. Written comments, photos and videos all form part of their 'digital footprint' and could be seen by anyone and available on the internet forever, even if it is subsequently deleted.

Age Limits

- Remember that services like Facebook and YouTube have a minimum age limit of 13 for a reason. Talk to other parents to make sure everyone is in agreement and has the same expectations.

Reporting

- Always ensure your child knows how to block or report people online who send nasty or inappropriate messages or content. Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply.
- Make sure your child knows to tell an adult they trust if they see something online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.

It's essential to be realistic - banning the internet or technology will not work and it often makes a child less likely to report a problem. Education around safe use is essential so that the children have skills embedded for life.

Websites for more information:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk – Visit the "Parent/Carer" Section and use the "Click CEOP" button to seek advice

www.childnet.com – Visit the 'Parents and Carers Section for a guide about online safety

www.getsafeonline.org – Visit the Safeguarding children section

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/> - Insights into the content of current media

Please do contact school if you have any questions or require further support in keeping your child safe online.

Many thanks,

Paul Harrison

Assistant Headteacher

