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Date: 31.8.2023



Education and Families

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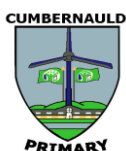
Dear Parent/Carer,
Safeguarding in the Online World

I am writing to make you aware that I am concerned about the level of safeguarding in place to support and protect children in the online world. I would urge all parents to monitor this very closely.

Throughout the year we maintain a focus on Internet safety. We use material from the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) website to support our work (www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents).

You will be aware the internet hosts many exciting opportunities for education. The online world is a wonderful place for young people to explore, with unprecedented opportunities for learning and creativity; however just like the real world there are risks and dangers they should be aware of and which we should all act to protect them from. As a school we encourage the use of technology as an important part of the children's development but always want them to spend their time online safely. Just a few simple steps by you can help keep them safe and help the children to know what to do if they feel uncomfortable about anything they encounter while on the internet.

If you do not wish your child to be able to access any inappropriate content online, please ensure that their computers, laptops, mobile phones and other devices with internet access are all fitted with parental controls. You can find free downloadable versions online or you can contact your internet service provider (such as BT, Talk Talk, Sky) for more information. As a **minimum**, please set parental controls on your search engines, YouTube account and the mobile phone your child uses. One of the most popular search engines in the world is Google. You can visit Google's information safety centre for **simple** step-by-step guides - www.google.com/familysafety/tools



Please be aware that no filter is 100% accurate. CEOP advise that you talk to your child about the sites they use. Why don't you discuss:

- Their favourite online sites
- What they enjoy most, the fun aspects of being online?
- What they think can go wrong?
- How would they react if things got out of control?

Social Media

Social Media is a way for your child to communicate and engage with peer groups. Many social media sites have a minimum age for those wishing to join; however, these are often ignored. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp and YouTube are all popular with children. Please talk to your child about privacy settings and the content they are posting. The content they post now will stay with them and could have an adverse effect on relationships and self esteem. Content can be copied, saved and manipulated even though it may have been deleted. We teach the children that it is really important to think before you type!

Gaming

Gaming is fun but can be all consuming. Remember to use the games consoles safety settings to control age related games and the amount of time spent online.

Instant Messaging

This is a fast, fun way to speak to friends and family. Ensure that your child understands that they may be talking to people they do not know. Children can be exposed to upsetting or inappropriate content so please get to know how your child is using this.

You can also access a range of parental information leaflets from the Parent Area of our school website. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything you wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Clinton
Head Teacher