Online Safety

Many children are now being educated at home and continuing their education online to try and limit the spread of COVID-19.

Technology can give children access to learning and socialising however it can still present some risks. We have provided some information and things you can do to help keep your child safe online during this difficult time.

Help to keep your children safe by:

1. Talking to your child about keeping personal information private.

2. Blocking popups and spam emails on devices.

3. Considering using a generic family email for registering online forms.

What can you do?

1. Encourage your child to keep their accounts private, rather than public.

2. Talk to them about keeping personal information, including address, financial details and the school they attend, private.

3. Get them to talk to you about their social media use.

4. Familiarise yourself with the apps they use.

UK Safer internet Centre has identified the following online risk categories to be aware of:

Behaviour: *sharing too much information*

It's critical that children are aware of the impact they have online as well as on other people, particularly in terms of their digital footprint. They should remember to remain respectful and kind online, but also keep in mind that once something is posted online it cannot be taken back.

Sometimes, they can also feel a false sense of being safe, without understanding the importance of keeping personal information safe and not sharing this with strangers. Make sure they feel confident enough to report inappropriate conversations, messages or behaviour to a trusted adult.

Nechells Primary
E-ACT Academy

Contact: *strangers, bullies, groomers or radicalisers can contact children*

The internet can provide children with important social interactions, which is very important, especially during a time when they are in social isolation. If children are feeling alone during these times, they may turn to social networks to reach out to others, including people who they do not know.

If children and young people make new friends online during this period, the new online friend may not be who they say they are, which can place them at significant harms, including financial and sexual exploitation, as well as radicalisation.

Content: *age-inappropriate or unreliable content or fake news*

While browsing online during this period children may come across content that is inappropriate, hurtful or harmful. They can come across this content through social networks, online games, blogs and websites. Try to monitor the apps being used, ensuring they are age appropriate, as well as talking to your children about their online activity.

Many stories are being shared across social networks about COVID-19. Make sure children and young people understand the difference between fake news, an article written from bias and content from a reliable source.

Useful Websites

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/

Resources you can use with your children

1. Learn about Online Safety, help sheets for parents and worksheets for children - ThinkUKnow

2. Worksheets for Primary-aged children about online safety – LGFL

Social Media Minimum Age Limits

Snapchat- 13 Years +

Twitter- 13 Years +

TickTok- 13 Years +

YouTube
No age limit to view but for younger children YouTube Kids is better. **13+to make an account**

Facebook- 13 Years +

Instagram- 13 Years +

Whatsapp- 13 Years +

Useful Resources for Parents

1. Tips on how to support your child at home –**ThinkUKnow**
2. Tips on keeping safe online- **Safer Internet Parent info**
3. Educating yourself on the different apps and security features - **NSPCC Net-Aware**
4. Screen time tips- **Webwise**
5. Talking to your child about scary world news – **Mental Health Foundation**
6. Reliable news sites - **Newsround First News, BBC News, Sky News, The Guardian, The Independent**
7. Top tips for Parents for Online Safety – **LGFL Internet Matters**
8. Resources to help you to understand how to keep your child safe from extremist views – **Educate Against Hate**
9. Information for parents on school closures – **GOV.UK**
10. Guidance on supporting children's mental health and wellbeing – **GOV.UK**