

To make our dreams come true

through our shared Christian Values of compassion, respect, trust, wisdom and friendship

*You are like a tree planted by the water, bearing fresh fruit every month,
Never dropping a leaf, always in blossom. Psalm 1:3*



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Online Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Longford Primary School. We have security measures in place in school, to help safeguard pupils from potential dangers or unsuitable material. All children throughout the school are taught about Online Safety and this is referred to regularly.

Online Safety is taught to all pupils explaining and demonstrating how to stay safe and behave appropriately online. We can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you to ensure the Online Safety message is consistent. Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep safe and behave appropriately online. We have recently paid into a wonderful resource called "discovery learning (Espresso), log-in details are attached. Please take time over the festive period to watch the Online Safety clips with your children on Discovery learning and talk about it with them.

Recently, as a school, we have been made aware of incidents of children accessing, accidentally or deliberately, unwanted or unpleasant content at home on computers, tablets or mobile devices.

What can parents and carers do?

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 much like you would offline. Please be vigilant and aware that often seemingly innocent apps and websites (a recent example was of an app called "The Real Disney" which linked to content from horror films rated 18) may have adverts or inappropriate content for your child.

Online Safety · Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions 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.

Location · Locate your computer in a supervised family area. Always supervise the use of webcams in and applications which allow voice or video chat. Consider your child's use of other devices that allow internet access such as Mobile Phones and Games Consoles. Ask yourself, would I be happy leaving my child unsupervised with a stranger? This is the reality of what your child could be doing by chatting online to people in gaming or via social media.

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. · Always ensure your child knows how to block or report people online who send nasty or inappropriate messages or content (refer to Hector's world information attached). 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

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work and it often makes a child less likely to report a problem. Education around safe use is essential.

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 ‘Know It All’ Section for an interactive guide about online safety

www.getsafeonline.org – Free up-to-date Security advice, age specific advice

<https://www.common sense media.org/> - Excellent advice about Internet Safety

Facebook

Facebook is targeted at older teenagers and adults. They have a “No under 13” registration policy and recommend parental guidance for 13 to 16 year olds. The following are extracts from Facebook’s privacy policy: “Facebook requires everyone to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account (in some jurisdictions, this age limit may be higher). Creating an account with false info is a violation of our terms. This includes accounts registered on the behalf of someone under 13. If your underage child created an account on Facebook, you can show them how to account. If you'd like to report an account belonging to someone under 13, please fill out this form. Note that we'll promptly delete the account of any child under the age of 13 that's reported to us through this form.”

WhatsApp

WhatsApp is a messaging facility via smart phones. The users can send instant messages, photos and voice messages. WhatsApp states that it is not for users under the age of 16. The following is an extract from WeChat’s privacy policy: “You affirm that you are either more than 16 years of age, or an emancipated minor, or possess legal parental or guardian consent, and are fully able and competent to enter into the terms, conditions, obligations, affirmations, representations, and warranties set forth in these Terms of Service, and to abide by and comply with these Terms of Service. In any case, you affirm that you are at least 16 years old as the WhatsApp Service is not intended for children under 16. If you are under 16 years of age, you are not permitted to use the WhatsApp Service.”

If you have any concerns or queries about any matters related to safe internet use, please do not hesitate to see me, Mrs Rose, or Mrs Knipe.

Many thanks

Mrs Rose