



Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### **Online Safety at Preston CofE Primary School**

Dear Parents/Carers,

E-Safety is an important part of keeping children safe online. We have security measures in place in school, which are constantly monitored, to help safeguard pupils from any potential dangers. E-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 e-safety message is consistent. Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep safe and behave appropriately online. The widespread availability and use of social networking application bring opportunities to understand, engage and communicate with audiences in new ways. It is important that we are able to use these technologies and services effectively and flexibly. You may find you children asking to engage with technology that you have no knowledge or experience of.

Children are accessing a greater amount of content online, than we were ever exposed to in our childhood. Remember that services like Facebook and YouTube have a minimum age limit of 13. If you choose to allow your children to have these accounts, then you will want to discuss with them the boundaries you expect. We have spoken to them in school about sharing their password with you, in order to keep them safe. If not, explain to them why not.

You will find children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to unwanted or unpleasant content or comments online and there are steps you can take at home to minimise this risk. What can parents/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.

#### **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**

- 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 use of other devices that allow internet access such as Mobile Phones and Games Consoles.

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### **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. 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.

### **The Golden Rules:**

We are teaching children to follow these Golden Rules:

1. Use a nickname, not your real name when online.
2. Keep your personal information safe, share with only people you know.
3. Use websites that are suitable for your age and remember that you are still talking to strangers.
4. Be nice to others online, in the way you would expect other people to be nice to you.
5. Tell an adult if you see or hear something that you think is not right.

### **Websites for more information:**

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> - Advice on keeping children safe online.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> – Visit the “Parent/Carer” Section and use the “Click CEOP” button to seek advice

<https://www.childnet.com> – Visit the ‘Know It All’ Section for an interactive guide about online safety [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org) – Free up-to-date Security advice, age specific advice

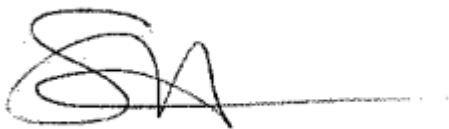
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p023xv3k> - This is an archived site from the BBC

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/search/category/youtube> - Excellent advice about Internet Safety.

[Discussion Guides - Thorn for Parents](#) – Discussion guides for parents

We thank you for your cooperation with this important matter and encourage you to contact us if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Hann', followed by a horizontal line.

Mrs S.Hann,  
Deputy Headteacher