Strangers on the internet

Protecting your child's device

PARENTAL CONTROLS

Helping your child to 'Stay Safe Online'

Parents often ask us for advice about helping to keep their child safe online. To help, we have written this guide for you and your child.

SINGLEWELL SCHOOL

Bullying on social networks

Sharing information on the internet

Children are using electronic devices more and more and we all need to make sure that they are doing so safely and are aware of the potential risks. Please read this leaflet through with your child and talk about the issues it raises. Talk to your child about internet safety regularly and agree some ground rules about how your family use the internet. **Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns and don't worry if you feel out of your depth. We can help!**

Bullying on social networks

Sometimes children can be unkind to each other on social networks. We treat this as seriously as face-to-face bullying and it is often more upsetting as it attacks a child in their home.

Talk to your child about this so they can recognise it straight away if this happens to them. Encourage them to tell you, a teacher or another grown-up they trust if anyone is being unkind to them and let them know that it will be sorted out and it will be OK.

Someone has said something unkind about Joseph on a social network site. He is very upset and worried. He tells his dad and his dad has spoken to his teacher. His teacher knows what to do and they have promised Joseph that they will deal with it.

Protecting your child's device

Make sure that all the devices that your family use are protected with anti-virus software and that it is kept up to date. Talk to your child about viruses and the risks of them infecting devices so that they take care about sites that they may visit. Talk to them about the danger of opening links or attachments to emails, as they may carry viruses too. Set up parental controls so that your child can only access age-appropriate content.

Make sure that your child uses passwords where possible on their devices. Talk to them about keeping their passwords secure and private, and about choosing passwords that are difficult for anyone else to guess. They should share their passwords with you.

Jay's mum has made sure that all Jay's devices are as secure as possible. She was not sure about what to do so she asked the school for some advice.

Find out what your child is doing on the internet

You can make this easier by making sure that your child uses their devices in a busy part of the house so you can see what they are looking at. It is also a good idea to check 'history' on their devices so you can see what pages they have visited. Look at websites together and encourage them to use useful and interesting ones such as BBC Bitesize.

Jay needs some information for his homework. He isn't sure where to look so his mum helps him find the BBC Bitesize website to get some information for his homework topic. His mum is checking what he is looking at and is enjoying finding out more about the subject herself.

Sharing information on the internet

Talk to your child about the risks of sharing something on the internet. For example, if something is shared on a social network, you have limited control about who sees it and how long it stays on the internet. Talk to your child about this and encourage them to think carefully about any videos, pictures or opinions that they may post online. You should monitor what your child is accessing on social networks.

Jay, Joseph and Grace have shared some funny photos of animals after checking with their parents. Their parents have explained the dangers of sharing personal information and they know they should always check before sharing anything online, even if it is just with friends that they know in real life.

Strangers on the internet

Talk to your child about people that they meet on the internet so that they understand that they should treat people on the internet the same way that they would treat strangers in real life.

Although your child may think they know them, they may not be who they say they are. Even if your child regularly plays online games with them, they are not a real friend. So, your child should not give out any personal information, such as address and phone numbers, and they should not meet them unless it is under your supervision.

Grace is playing an online game with some school friends. They have a friend who also plays online but they know that she is not the same as a real-life friend.

Dealing with upsetting content

Despite all the safety measures you put in place, your child may still come across something which is frightening or upsetting online. Talk to them about it now, before they see something, so that they know what to do. Your child should shut the device down or walk away and speak to you or another grown-up straight away. Reassure them that they will not be in trouble if this happens to them.

Grace is looking at some videos that her friend has told her about and has seen something scary online. She tells her mum straight away. Her mum tells her to close the screen and chats to her about what she has seen and makes her feel less worried about it. Grace's mum tells the school about it the next day so the school can talk about it with all the pupils.