Strangers on the internet

Protecting your child's device

Helping your child to
'Stay Safe Online'

Temple Hill
Community Primary School & Nursery

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.
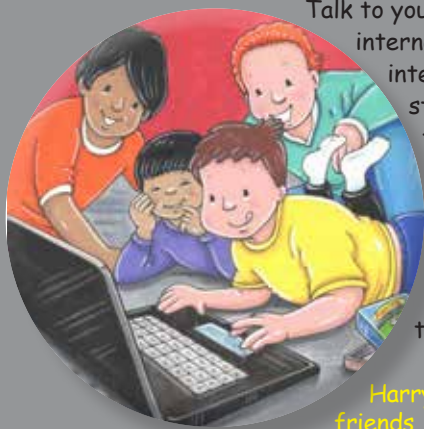
Bullying on social networks

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. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns and we will help.

Strangers on the internet

Talk to your child about people that they meet on the internet. Tell your child to treat people on the internet the same way that they would treat strangers in real life. 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 their address and phone numbers and they should not meet them unless it is under your supervision.

Harry is playing an online game with some school friends. They have a friend who also plays online but they know that he is not the same as a real-life friend and do not chat to him.

Bullying on social networks

Unfortunately, sometimes children can be unkind to each other on social networks. It is often more upsetting than bullying in person. Talk to your child about this so they can recognise 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.

Someone has said something unkind about Alisha on a social network site. She is very upset and she has told her teacher straightaway. Her teacher knows what to do and she has promised Alisha that she will sort it out and it will be OK.

Find out what your child is doing on the internet

Parents need to keep an eye on what their child is doing online. You can make this easier by having their devices in a busy part of the house so you can see what they are looking at. Make sure that devices have parental controls on them so you give access to age-appropriate content only. It is also a good idea to check 'history' on their devices so you can see what pages they have visited.

Tobias is looking at the BBC website to get information for his homework topic. His dad is checking what he is looking at, and enjoying finding out what Tobias has been reading about.

Protecting your child's device

Protect all of your devices with anti-virus software and keep it up to date. Talk to your child about the risks of picking up viruses so that they take care about sites that they may visit. Also talk to them about the danger of opening links or attachments to emails, as they may carry viruses too. Where they have passwords, talk to them about keeping them secure (but share them with you) and choosing passwords that are difficult for anyone else to guess.

Tobias's mum has made sure that all the devices in their house have anti-virus software and it is up to date. Tobias has set up a password to access a website so it is secure, but he has also shared it with his mum.

Dealing with upsetting content

Despite all the safeguards you put in place, your child may come across something which is frightening or upsetting online. If this happens, tell them to shut the device down or walk away, and speak to you or another grown-up straightaway. Reassure them that they will not be told off if this happens to them.

Harry has clicked on a link that has led him to something upsetting. As they use devices in a busy area in his house, he can tell his mum straightaway. She tells him to close the screen and has a chat to him about what he has seen and makes him feel less worried about it.

Sharing information on the internet

If something is shared on the internet, for example 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.

Tobias is setting up some information about himself for a school project. He is thinking about what information he would like people to know about and what he would like to keep private.

The Galaxy Federation

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