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Respect Honesty Love

Thursday 21st September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Online safety is an important part of keeping children safe. 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.

What can parents/carers do?

- 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.
- Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection, and use Parental Control functions for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to block unsuitable content.
- 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.
- 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.

Having conversations with children about their interactions in the online world is really important – follow this link for <u>Top Tips for parents</u> on how you can make space for conversations.

Looking for advice on how to support your child in using technology? Follow this link <u>Parents and Carers - UK</u> <u>Safer Internet Centre</u>) for information on devices and social media guidelines.

Please use the links below for further information about Online Safety.

<u>https://nationalonlinesafety.com/</u> - National Online Safety <u>https://www.saferinternetday.org/</u> - Safer Internet Day website

Also attached is an 'Age-Appropriate Gaming' poster that gives examples of the games/websites most appropriate for your child or children.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Costen (Computing Lead)











