

E-Safety Update

Dear parents/carers,

The positives of technology far outweigh the negatives. As parents, we fear the potential negative impact of social media, cyber-bullying, adult content, predators – we are confronted with so many negative headlines and frightening stories. But the internet also offers amazing opportunities for learning, having fun with friends, creating and publishing ideas, pictures and video, collaborating and enjoying music and media.

While it might be tempting to ban internet access or smartphones, this simply makes children more vulnerable when they go it alone. Just as you taught them how to cross the road safely by doing it alongside you, then taking the lead and finally doing it on their own - staying safe online needs the same approach.

So, how do you enable your children to benefit from technology while staying safe?

Here are four key things you should consider doing at home:

<p>Educate</p> <p>Educate yourself Go on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, WhatsApp and other popular social media and messaging platforms to find out what they are all about.</p> <p>Educate your children Talk about what you should and shouldn't do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share – you should never share your name, address and any personal information. • Say – you should never say anything you wouldn't say to someone's face or that could be unkind. • Do – you should never communicate with or arrange a face to face meeting with someone you 'met' online. <p>Make sure your children understand that their 'digital footprint' can be seen by school, universities, colleges and employers in the future so it's important to exercise safety and caution now.</p>	<p>Monitor</p> <p>Engage with your children and talk about what they are doing online. Ideally, children should only use the internet when they are in a family area and you can keep a constant eye on what they are doing. As they get older they will demand more privacy, but it is important to stay interested. Ask them to show you their social media feeds and instant messages and keep the lines of communication open.</p> <p>Protect</p> <p>There are filtering systems available that will block unsuitable content. Some are free, others you can buy. Filtering can be very effective but no system is 100% foolproof, so education remains key. All mobile devices also contain parental restriction features and these can be activated to limit content.</p> <p>Support</p> <p>We all make mistakes, particularly when we are young. Be approachable. Make sure your children know they can talk to you if something goes wrong and support them if it does. Most sites now have 'report abuse' buttons where you can report inappropriate behavior and seek further support from the links on our school website.</p>
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For further information on how to support your child online, please visit the online safety section of our school website:

<https://kingswayprimary.org.uk/online-safety/>

