



Internet use at school and home

Elmbridge Primary School aims to provide a safe space for children to go online. This will enable pupils to enhance their learning and give them vital life skills for this technological age. As such, the school has produced a thorough e-safety policy which details the practice and procedures for internet use. This can be found on the school website. Below is some information that you may find useful in keeping your child/children safe if using the internet away from school.

- **Explore together:** The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to ask them to tell you about it. Know what sites they visit and/or social networks they are using. Encourage them to use devices in communal areas so you can see the sites they are visiting.
- **Put yourself in control:** Make use of the parental controls on your home broadband and internet enabled devices. Consult your broadband provider for details.
- **Search safely:** Use safe search engines, such as swiggle.org.uk or kids-search.com. Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and YouTube.
- **Agree boundaries:** Be clear about what your child can and can't do online – where they use the internet, how much time they spend online, the sites they can visit, the type of information they can search for. Agree when they can have a mobile phone or tablet.
- **Check it's suitable:** The age rating that comes with games, apps, films and social media are a good guide as to whether they are suitable for your child.

Social networking

Young people should know the risks as well as benefits of joining a social network. These conversations will be had in school, but parents need to be aware of the potential problems these sites pose. When using any social network, the privacy settings should be set so only known contacts can see information that is posted. The school's advice would be to observe the age limits that social networks advertise. Some general rules are:

- Children must know they should never share personal information or agree to meet with anybody they have met online. They need to know that people on line are not always who they say they are. Some children have been persuaded to share personal information and/or photos, even though they did not know the recipient.
- Children need to know to be kind online and must realise they shouldn't say anything cruel or mean, even as a joke. Some children have become caught up in bullying when they have joined in conversations that have involved nasty comments or offensive language – this has then been reported to the school or police.
- Passwords should be kept safe and secure. Young people should be in control of their passwords and know what to do if they lose or forget it. In some cases, other people have posted offensive material that has supposedly come from the child's account because passwords have been shared.

Online/cyber bullying

Sometimes, young people can be the victim of online/cyber bullying. They are made to feel bad about themselves by comments that are made by other online users, or can be coerced into actions by threats that are made to them.

We always encourage pupils to tell a trusted adult straight away if they feel uncomfortable about something that has been posted online as soon as they can. It is also useful to take screen shots of any upsetting materials before they are deleted – these can then be used to hold cyber bullies to account. Don't retaliate or respond, or ever join in with online bullying.

Parents and pupils are encouraged to report any concerns they have to the school – we can often help by informing other parents and/or the police if necessary. It is always a good idea to block anybody that may be using the internet to take part in online/cyber bullying.

More information and advice can be found on the e-safety policy.

Useful sources of information

- internetmatters.org. This is a free online resource that gives advice and support on e-safety issues. A lot of the information here comes from this website.
- The NSPCC have trained counsellors available for advice and support 24/7 (NSPCC: 0808 800 5000)
- Childline will work with an organisation called the Internet Watch Foundation to get inappropriate images removed from the internet (Childline: 0800 1111)
- CEOPS: the national policing lead for online child sexual exploitation