



Online Safety Newsletter

February 2017



Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of our school's aim to keep the school community safe whilst using the internet, we think it is essential that '**Online Safety**' is addressed within the curriculum at school and at home. We recognise that it is an ever-changing and ever-expanding digital world and want the children to access this.

It has come to our attention through the 'Internet Use Questionnaire' sent out earlier in the year and through discussions with the children, that there is widespread use of the internet and some use of social media. We have taken part in Safer Internet Day and aim to provide continuous support to allow children to utilise the internet safely.

Age Restrictions

The minimum age for most social media networks is 13 years old. It is important that if your child does have access to these, that you know their passwords and monitor their profiles closely. This website shows the risks for children and young people: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Gaming



There are loads of exciting games about in the online world, either directly on the internet or on a gaming device. Most games come with a PEGI rating which states on the cover what content will be shown. Not only does this show an age rating but gives visual clues to things such as violence and bad language (similar to a DVD rating). Many of these games allow communication between players, which again should be closely monitored.

Tips for 'Online Safety'

- Encourage children to be open about their internet use - Why not chat to your child about what they are playing on?
- Set boundaries and screen time so children are clear on how to best use the internet.
- Check out the links on the school website for information on social media and gaming.

