



# Online Safety Newsletter

November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

All children began the year exploring ways to keep themselves safe, both physically and virtually. We are supporting the children in becoming better '**Digital Citizens**' by developing their critical thinking, digital literacy and understanding the best and safest way to utilize technology. This is something which will be weaved throughout Computing and PSHE across the year rather than explicit or one-off lessons.

## What is 'Digital Citizenship'?

Just like we teach our children to behave and act responsibly and respectfully in the world around us, we must now teach them how to behave and act whilst using technology. We are all 'Digital Citizens' in this ever-evolving world of digital devices.

Digital Citizenship is much more than just online safety. It is about understanding the best way to use technology to develop your information, to use your voice and be responsible online.

## What is a good 'Digital Citizen'?

A good 'Digital Citizen':

- Understands the SMART rules to stay safe
- Carefully manages their digital footprint by thinking about *what* they actually put online and *how often* they use devices
- Respects themselves and others by using appropriate language
- Protects their private information
- Understands that not everything they read, see or watch online is an accurate representation of the truth



Below are some tips and reminders to support at home.

### Online Communities

We are finding that 'trending' content which is rated 18+, is weaving its way into online communities which are accessible to some of our pupils. Most recently, Squid Games, which is even being mirrored in games such as Roblox, which is widely used across both KS1 and KS2 pupils.

Below is the SMART rules poster shared in school to help with discussions at home too.



### Social Media

Most forms of social media, such as Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram are rated at aged 13+, due to the risks posed from the digital communities. Please see this link for the complete list <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking/>

Please encourage your child, if they have access to these platforms, to ensure that their account is private. If it is not, anyone and everyone access it.

Here is a moving video aimed at upper KS2/KS3 pupils about 'selfies' and how what they see online can effect self-confidence <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzqjXfLeigU>

Please watch it first to assess whether it is suitable for your child and their social media understanding/use.

### Talk about it

In the world we live in, the children are surrounded by digital technology and it has some fantastic benefits and opportunities. From a young age, children have the chance to learn, research, play and connect. Since it is often a part of everyday life for both adults and children, making the conversations around it regular and open can make a huge difference in allowing the children to use the online world in a way that's safe and positive for their mental health.

If you would like further advice or have any questions, please feel free to contact school and Miss Connolly can support you with ways to keep your child safe online. Alternatively, if your child has an online concern or query they can also be encouraged to discuss this with their teacher or Miss Connolly (Online Safety Lead).

Please visit the websites below for more information keeping your child safe online.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

<https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/>

You can also sign up to a free newsletter via the ParentZone website for advice, articles and activities for the family.