

E-SAFETY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

E-Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Mersey Park Primary School. We have extensive security measures in place in school, which are monitored both internally and externally, to help safeguard pupils from potential dangers or unsuitable material. Any e-safety incidents are recorded and managed in accordance with our e-Safety Policy.

We can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you to ensure the e-safety message is consistent. Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep safe and behave appropriately online.

Follow these Golden Rules

Ground Rules

- Discuss as a family how the internet will be used in your house. Consider what should be kept private online. Remind them that they should not put anything online that they would not want a stranger to see, including photographs as a profile picture. Decide rules for meeting their friends online. Make sure you know what your child is doing online and that they are only talking to people that are known to you. 1 in 4 children arrange to meet someone face to face that they have met online.

Online Safety

- Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use parental control functions for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to block unsuitable content or unsuitable contacts.
- 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. These need to be checked regularly as any updates can convert them back to default settings.

Location

- Locate your computer in a supervised family area. Always supervise the use of webcams and applications which allow voice, video or instant messaging. Consider your child's use of other devices that allow internet access such as mobile phones and games consoles.

Dialogue

- Talk to your child and ask them to show or even teach you how they use the internet, learn which websites or tools they like to use and why. Learning together can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour with your child.
- Always ensure your child knows how to block or report people online who send nasty or inappropriate messages or content. Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply. Screen shots should be kept as evidence, if needed by appropriate agencies to pursue and take necessary steps of action.
- Make sure your child knows to tell an adult they trust if they see something online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.

It's essential to be realistic - banning the internet or technology will not work and it often makes a child less likely to report a problem. Education around safe use is essential. These websites give more information:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk - Visit the "Parent/Carer" Section. Use the "Click CEOP" button to seek advice and report online abuse

www.childnet.com - Visit the 'Know It All' Section for an interactive guide about online safety

www.getsafeonline.org - Free up-to-date Security advice

www.bbc.co.uk/onlinesafety - Includes online safety advice for children.