Online safety at home during Covid-19 for parents and pupils

Introduction

Whilst most of us are staying home to stay safe during current times, we are all accessing the internet to learn (and play) more online. This guidance is to help pupils stay safe whilst using the internet at home.

For schoolwork the Federation uses Google Classroom, Purple Mash & Tapestry. We also have the following policies which should be read alongside this note:

- Remote Education Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Remote Education Agreement
- Live teaching and other online sessions protocol
- Google Meet Protocol
- School Behaviour Policy and COVID annex
- E-Safety Policy

Open communication about online safety at home

Parents and their children should discuss online safety regularly

Children should be encouraged to discuss what games and apps they are using and what they are sharing and who sees it – it may help to compare what you share in everyday life and what you would share online. These questions might help:

- What things do you share online?
- Should we share everything?
- What shouldn't we share?

Let your child know they can talk to you

The internet and apps are great places to play, learn and connect. However, remind your children that they can talk to you if they see or hear anything that upsets or worries them online.

Show them how to report inappropriate content

Your child might see something upsetting or worrying on YouTube or other platforms they are using. If this happens, they might want to report videos or comments. Show them how to do this. They may also experience unpleasant comments – show them how to block a user. Please see the further information section below for links on how to report inappropriate material on various platforms such as You tube.

What not to share online

Pupils are advised not to share private information online in public places such as YouTube or other social media, such as:

- personal information, like emails, names, phone numbers, school names
- photos of themselves
- photos or videos of their body
- gossip

Sharing documents and photos with your teachers

Pupils may wish to share documents and photos of their work with their teachers. It is fine to share photos and documents with teachers online but this must only be done through Federation approved platform – Google Classroom or Tapestry - and not through public platforms such as YouTube or through any private messaging (such as WhatsApp). Pupils should not send photos of their face or body to anybody online, including their teachers.

Home internet filters

The four big internet providers in the UK – BT, Sky, TalkTalk and Virgin Media - provide their customers with free parental controls which can be activated at any time. This link provides info on how parents can turn on these filters:

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parental-controls-offered-yourhome-internet-provider

School and Federation-based platforms

The Spire Federation has approved the use of Google Classroom, Tapestry and Purple Mash. These platforms help increase online safety as they are more secure than using learning platforms which are not managed and controlled by us.

Public platforms including Facebook, YouTube, etc

Depending on the age of the pupils (please see the age restrictions section below), you may allow them to use various online platforms such as YouTube at home. These platforms can be useful for online learning, but they act as an easy gateway to inappropriate content and contact so parents will need to monitor usage of these platforms.

Set out below are some practical ways to help stay safe online whilst using public platforms such as these.

Restrict settings

YouTube: YouTube is an online platform owned by Google where anyone can upload and watch video content as well as create and comment on videos.

YouTube allows live streaming. Inappropriate content is easy to access for children on YouTube, so care needs to be taken.

- Parents are advised to turn on Restricted Mode in settings in their account in order to restrict adult content.
- Ideally keep any videos uploaded Private or Unlisted so that the general public cannot access them.
- Parents should monitor any videos uploaded by your child to ensure comments are appropriate.
- Parents and Pupils should block any concerning users to help prevent cyber-bullying and inappropriate contact and comments

How to put on restricted mode on YouTube: https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/youtube/

Other social media: For restriction setting advice on other social media sites including Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Tumblr, WhatsApp etc please see this link:

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/social-media-guides

TV on demand and catch up TV: Whilst many families juggle to combine home-working and homelearning, it is inevitable that children may be accessing more TV. Most channels and apps such as BBC iPlayer, Netflix, SkyGo and Amazon have parental controls you can turn on to help restrict inappropriate content. This link provides a link to the parental control sections for most of these channels and apps:

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/safety-tools-online-services/tvdemand

Follow age restrictions

Facebook: Children under 12 should not use Facebook and should not be allowed their own Facebook profile.

YouTube: The official age rating for YouTube is 13+. Children under this age should only be accessing YouTube under parental supervision.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place using technology. Whether on social media platforms, through a mobile phone, on a laptop or via gaming, the effects can be devastating for children involved. There are ways to help prevent a child from being cyberbullied and to help them cope and stop the bullying if it does happen. Parents and carers need to be aware that most children have been involved in cyberbullying in some way, either as a victim, perpetrator, or bystander.

Some signs that a child may be a victim of cyberbullying during these days at home include:

- Upset after using the internet or his/her mobile phone
- Avoiding speaking to friends online in the normal ways
- Suffering from low self-esteem

This government guidance is very useful on how parents can help prevent and respond to cyberbullying:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/4 44865/Advice_for_parents_on_cyberbullying.pdf. The guidance includes these tips for pupils:

- Be careful what you upload. Once a picture is shared online it cannot be taken back
- Treat your password like your toothbrush – keep it to yourself and change it regularly
- Block the bully – learn how to block or report someone who is behaving badly
- Do not retaliate or reply to offending e-mails, text messages or online conversations
- Save the evidence. Always keep a copy of offending e-mails, text messages or a screen grab of online conversations and pass to a parent, a carer or a teacher

If a pupil is concerned about cyber bullying, or if a parent is concerned that their child may be involved in cyberbullying, please speak to your school.

Useful links

There is lots of information available on how to keep your children safe online. Set out below is some of the most relevant guidance during these times in addition to the links included above. **General advice**

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk
Really useful guidance on all aspects of online safety

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety NSPCC – talking about online safety
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/
Thinkyouknow - advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online

https://www.internetmatters.org/

Internet matters - support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_d ata/file/444865/Advice_for_parents_on_cyberbullying.pdf Government advice for parents on cyberbullying

YouTube

https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/youtube/
Key information about You tube from experts, parents and children:

https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides/what-parents-need-to-know-about-youtube Parental information on Youtube

https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802027 How to report inappropriate content on YouTube

Reporting concerns

Parents and pupils can report online concerns with the relevant platform such as YouTube as noted above. If parents or pupils have any concerns over any online content related to the school or Federation they can contact the school or the Federation via enquiries@east-wold.lincs.sch.uk or enquiries@north-cockerington.lincs.sch.uk