



THE
WOLDS & VALE
FEDERATION



E-Safety Newsletter for
Parents
December 2022

“Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility”

Dear Parents and Carers

Online Safety forms part of our Safeguarding Policy here at The Wolds and Vale Federation. As the children's use of information technology through a range of devices - both at home and in school - increases, the number of potential risks increases.

We have recently had a significant number of pupils tell us that they are regularly playing on games and platforms that are not age appropriate. In response to this, we are sharing this E Safety information with you as part of our ongoing Safeguarding responsibilities. This Newsletter is designed to help make you aware of potential dangers and the associated risks that the children could face.

Within schools, we teach the children how to be safe online, how to report any concerns they might have and all our devices are fitted with appropriate filtering and safety software.

I hope you find this information helpful to ensure that you are fully aware of what your child is doing when online and how to ensure they stay safe. With Christmas coming and possible new devices and games being received as presents, we thought that this would be a good time to share this information too.

From January, we will also be regularly sharing with you an E-Safety poster containing information about a certain game, app or platform.

If you have any specific concerns or questions, please do contact me or Mrs Walker via either school office.

Best wishes

Mrs Mould



Check All the Gadgets!

Your first thought when filtering may be to check the PC, laptop or phone, but there are many ways that children are able to access the internet. Gaming systems often have a built-in web browser, like Switch, PlayStation, Xbox, Wii, or DS. Whilst sometimes forgotten, these devices do have parental controls available and can be modified to filter content.

If you have any smart home devices, check to see if the internet can be accessed through your particular model. Social media and streaming sites can be accessed through a range of devices. If any device is connected to the Wi-Fi, ensure that parental controls are enabled or disconnect it from the Wi-Fi. Check with the manufacturer to see what options and controls are available.

Ensure only appropriate search engine results

It's all too easy of a mistake to make - maybe your child is searching for a term they don't realise is inappropriate or maybe a typo renders an otherwise innocent word into something that will return inappropriate results. On search engines, children can find ways of accidentally stumbling into content that is inappropriate in a variety of ways - violent, sexual or graphic.

Ensure that your child's search engine is set to filter results and only show your child content that has been confirmed to be appropriate and child-friendly.

These are just 4 of the child-friendly search engines available. There are many more.

1. Kiddle.co

This is a safe visual search engine for children developed by Google. It has all of the power and resources of Google with many safe search filters. They also have Kimages and Kpedia (a child's version of Wikipedia). In addition there is also a video search feature, a news search feature and resources for parents and teachers.

2. WackySafe

The Microsoft version of a child safe search engine comes in the form of an app that is made especially for PCs and Android phones. It claims to be "ultra-safe" and blocks inappropriate content and images using strict keyword filtering and allows for searching of information that is child friendly.

3. KidRex

This is powered by Google and is an independent organisation which ensures only appropriate content is available to children when searching.

4. SafeSearch Kids

This is also powered by Google and is available to download as app to act as a filter when your child is using the internet. The app automatically activates the Google Safe Search and filters what results can be shared with your child.



Prevent Phishing Scams

Phishing Scams have proven to be effective even against adults who might consider themselves to be experts of internet issues.

Limit Online Interaction to real-life friends and family

Ensure clear boundaries are in place about who



Enable Parental Controls

Simply checking your child's browser's history isn't enough to be carefully monitoring their internet activity. History can be deleted or prevented from being tracked in the first place by using the browser's incognito mode. It is critical that your child's browser has tools installed to fully prevent them from visiting inappropriate websites.

Some children are savvy enough to install a secondary browser to avoid parental controls or guess at the administration password to remove the filters themselves. Ensure that your child does not have access to privileges on the computer to install programs without parental approval and make the password a difficult one to guess. Check with your internet provider to see what parental controls can be implemented at the

Keep an Eye Out!

Installing parental controls on all devices is extremely important but nothing is better protection than the careful monitoring of parents and carers. Internet time could be limited to a time when a parent or carer is at home with them and devices such as computers or

6. Keep an eye out

Installing parental controls on all devices is extremely important, but nothing is better protection than the watchful eyes of a parent. Limit your child's internet time to when a parent is home with them, and put devices like the computer or gaming system in a common area where you can be nearby and monitor their activity. Be aware of what websites your child visits, what apps they use, and what videos they watch.



Teach Your Child About Personal Internet Safety

When creating a new account, show your child how to create a safe password that includes several different types of characters and is not based on easily guessed personal information but rather random word or letters. Password managers can be installed and show your child how to create a random and unique password to each account they create, saving and managing them through the password manager.

Ensure that your child knows about what kind of information is appropriate to post online. Personal information like their name, age, locations, school and family should never be shared online, especially with someone they don't know in real life. Help them create usernames and profiles that don't use personal information. Even seemingly innocent posts can reveal information about location or their information that may be used to find out their real identity.

Avoid Public Wi-Fi Hotspots

When visiting public spaces avoid using the public Wi-Fi. Scammers can use publicly available Wi-Fi to monitor anything that is sent over the public Wi-Fi, including passwords, emails, account information or personal details such as addresses or phone numbers.

When public Wi-Fi is necessary secure websites should be accessed only. These can be identified by the "https" preceding the URL when they are viewed in a browser window and the locked padlock icon can be seen next to the URL.

Further protection can be gained on public Wi-Fi by using a VPN - a service that helps to obscure your internet access and protect your privacy whilst browsing online.



Keep Talking to your Children

The goal is for children to become responsible, independent and aware when they are using the

School Internet Safety

Please be reassured that we take internet safety very seriously in school too and the children are taught specifically about it during PSHE and Computing lessons and also through informal conversations with adults in school. Our school devices are fitted with appropriate search engines and filtering software to ensure that children are kept as safe as possible.

We also encourage a culture of sharing concerns and children know they can speak to trusted adults if they have concerns about their own online activities or those of other children.

If you have any concerns about your child's online activities or have a question, please contact or Mrs Walker via either school office.

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