

Farington Moss St Paul's Primary School



Online Safety Newsletter



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The summer holidays are nearly here. With more time available, there will be more opportunities for children to spend time online. At the beginning of the holiday, it is a good time to remind your child about the importance of online safety.

In school when we talk about keeping safe online, we often refer to the SMART rules. They are a concise way of remembering the important messages about keeping safe. For more information click onto the link and watch Kara and Winston explain the SMART rules. <https://www.childnet.com/resources/the-adventures-of-kara-winston-and-the-smart-crew>



Protecting Personal Information

Protecting personal information online is of great importance for all of us. There have been occasions when the breaching of personal data has hit the news headlines. Children can often share personal details about themselves, and their families with little or no knowledge of how that information can or will be used. It's important to regularly remind your child about the importance of limiting what they share on-line. This website article offers some useful reminders. <https://parentinfo.org/article/your-child-s-personal-information-and-how-to-protect-it-online-primary>.

Do you need more information? The Parent Info website contains a wealth of information about issues related to the internet. Visit www.parentinfo.org

How do I start the conversation?

The NSPCC offers some tips about keeping your child safe online. These are:

1. Have a conversation about using the internet early and often.
2. Explore the internet together.
3. Know who your child is talking to online.
4. Set rules and agree boundaries.
5. Make sure content is age appropriate.
6. Use parental controls to filter, restrict, monitor and report content.
7. Check privacy settings and remind children to keep personal information private.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Games and PEGI Ratings

Online gaming can be fun, entertaining and can encourage teamwork and cooperation when played with others. Internet safety is directly applicable to online gaming on **all** devices. All games consoles have parental control settings to allow you to limit your child's gaming to age-appropriate games based upon the PEGI rating.

PEGI labels appear on the front and back of games packaging, and on online games and apps. For more information about the different age levels and descriptors visit: www.pegi.info/en/index

For more information and other useful website links visit: <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/gaming>

Tik Tok

TikTok has gained global popularity in recent years. The social network app has gained popularity to allow users to create, share and watch short video clips. The app has gained popularity for viral dances and celebrity cameos. Users don't have to have an account to watch the videos but there is an age restriction of 13 to have an account. Many people enjoy watching videos that are posted on it but it is worth bearing in mind the risks such as; data collection, inappropriate language and video content, strangers being able to directly contact children and access to risky challenges. For more information on Tik Tok and some really helpful video clips about the risks, plus how to set up the parental controls please visit

<https://parentinfo.org/article/tiktok-what-parents-need-to-know>

Another helpful website about the risks of Tik Tok is <https://www.childrens.com/health-wellness/is-tik-tok-safe-for-kids>

Other Useful Websites to help

SWGfI have some very useful tips for staying safe on-line. They provide information about purchasing apps and setting boundaries for using devices. <https://swgfi.org.uk/magazine/staying-safe-online-at-christmas/>

The Internet Matters website has some invaluable information. There is a Nice Device List Quiz which has several useful questions to remind and prompt parents and children about being safe online.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/social-media/>

<https://nicedevicelist.com/>

Internet Parental Controls: www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls

Safety tools on Online Networks: www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools

Online Gaming: www.childnet.com/online-gaming

A Parent's Guide to Technology: www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech

We hope you have a safe summer holiday.