



Overley Hall School

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: E-Safety

At school we take the safety of our pupils very seriously including their safety while they access the internet, we want this approach to e-safety to spread to the home for those children who do have access to the home online environment too. We are therefore sharing with you some tips and resources to help you guide your children and help you keep up to date in a digital world. Here are a few tips to help you keep your children safe on line

- Think u know (<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>) is always a good place to start – you will see the report abuse button that your child will know about from school
- Another site that is helpful for parent controls is ‘UK safer Internet Centre’ (<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers>)
- Digital Parenting is another useful website and can be found at <http://www.pitda.co.uk/>

We suggest that if you are able to have ongoing conversations with your child about staying safe online. If your child accesses social networks and other online services use the safety tools eg Facebook privacy settings. Think about using parental controls on your home internet.

As part of our continuing work on e-Safety we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of its importance and relevance in your child’s life.

What does E-Safety mean?

Using the Internet is now an everyday occurrence for most adults and children. With ever expanding new technologies such as blogs (online diaries), social networking spaces, online chat and mobile phones children are using technology in a way never seen before. The increased use of technology at school and home also exposes children to a number of risks and dangers. In its simplest form E-Safety is about ensuring children use new technologies computers, mobile phones and gaming devices in a way which will keep them safe without limiting their opportunities for creation and innovation.

Why the Internet and digital communications are important

The Internet is an essential element in 21st century life for education, business, and social interaction. The school has a duty to provide pupils with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience. It is a part of the statutory curriculum and can be a very good tool for staff and pupils.

Internet use will enhance learning

We will endeavour to help pupils what Internet use is acceptable and what is not and given clear objectives for Internet use. Communication print will be used to aid understanding.

E- Safety guidance will be delivered at an appropriate level and pace to enable child to develop their knowledge to help keep them safe.

As skills develop, pupils will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location, retrieval and evaluation where appropriate. When they are ready, our young people will be taught how to publish and present information to a wider audience. Here at Overley Hall School, the school Internet will only be accessible to pupils with adult supervision. In addition, all usage will be monitored weekly by senior management. Age appropriate restrictions will be placed on iPads.

E-mail

Some pupils may benefit from learning how to write, send and retrieve e-mails. They will only use approved e-mail accounts on the school system.

Pupils must immediately tell a teacher if they receive an offensive e-mail. As students will be supervised fully, the staff will be responsible for recognising and reporting any abusive e-mails. This will be taken very seriously and a full investigation will be undertaken. Counter bullying log will record the incident.

Always think:

WHO your child is talking to
WHAT they're doing, and
WHERE they're going online

Yours sincerely



Bev Doran
Head of School