



Digital Safety

Protecting your child online

Information for parents

The internet is now everywhere; it's available from our computers and tablets in school, at home or at clubs – it is even available in our pockets via smart phones. The teachers at Primrose Hill School are keen to exploit the benefits of the internet to support children's learning as it provides children with excellent opportunities for learning and communicating with friends. However, Sometimes children don't realise that they can be as much at risk online as they are in the real world, and many parents feel they don't know enough about the internet to protect their children from the risks. This leaflet aims to help Primrose Hill parents keep their child safe online by providing information on the risks and what action they can take to protect their child when they use the internet.

How we use the internet at Primrose Hill School



At school and at home, your child may use the internet to:

- research information around a school topic using a search engine
- create posters and documents using Google Apps and Purple Mash
- send learning based email using their unique Google account
- play educational games, such as mathematics games using *Interactive Resources*
- access their *Google Classroom* to view teacher announcements and home learning activities
- Your child will receive a username and password for Purple Mash,

Brainpop, Google Classroom, Espresso and Maths Interactive Resources from their teacher.

The benefits

Using the internet can help your child to:

- improve their achievement at school
- learn important computer skills
- improve their confidence and communication skills
- develop their hobbies and interests
- find a wide range of information to help them with schoolwork.

The risks

- Viewing unsuitable and adult material on websites
- Forming online friendships with adults who pose a risk to children
- Cyber bullying; social media, emails and text messages can all be used to bully children

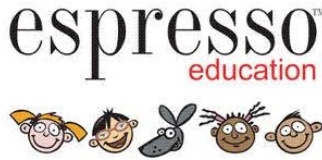
Further Advice and Resources

- The Childnet International website gives internet safety advice, resources and links for young people, parents, teachers, and other organisations. Childnet's Chatdanger website, accessible from here, gives information and advice about how to keep safe while chatting online. **www.childnet.com**
- Childnet runs a special parents' seminar which can be held in your school and there is further advice for parents on Childnet's KidSMART website at **www.kidsmart.org.uk/parents**
- Childnet's award winning suite of Know IT All resources have been designed to help educate parents, teachers and young people about safe and positive use of the internet. You can access the suite of resources for free at **www.childnet.com/kia**
- Childnet's Digizen website provides information about using social network sites and social media sites creatively and safely, it also shares advice and guidance on preventing and responding to cyberbullying. **www.digizen.org**
- Childnet's Sorted website is a resource produced entirely by young people for young people and adults on the issues of internet security. It gives important information and advice on how to protect computers from the dangers of viruses, phishing scams, spyware and Trojans. **www.childnet.com/sorted**
- The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre's website houses a range of information on how to stay safe online. It includes a **report abuse** button that enables parents and young people to make reports of actual or attempted abuse online which the police will investigate. **www.ceop.police.uk**



Primrose Hill Resources

All of Primrose Hill resources can be accessed from the Year Group page on the school website. Each child is given username and password sheet for each of the resources, with children encouraged to keep their Google Apps password private.



Google
Apps for Education



InteractivResources
www.interactivresources.co.uk



Google Classroom

Google Classroom is an online environment accessed through any browser or app on a smartphone or tablet. Teachers post announcements and home learning through a feed not dissimilar to a social networking application.

Children can use Google Classroom to:

- Access websites and links used in the classroom to continue or consolidate learning
- Attach photos or attachments to do with learning for the teacher to view
- Access templates linked to Google Applications to create at home
- Post comments about learning to the teachers or to classmates

Access to Google Classroom is permitted on the basis that children follow the online behaviour guidelines as stated in the Primrose Hill acceptable use policy.

What do we do in school to keep your child safe?

At Primrose Hill School, our Computing curriculum is underpinned by a digitally safe culture, with the promotion of positive digital citizenship. We believe that by giving children access to Google Classroom, email and Google Apps for Education, we provide a portal to teach children how to behave and keep safe when using online resources.

In the classroom, we do the following:

- teach children how to search safely for age appropriate material using Kidrex
- promote *digital citizenship* when using Google Classroom and other forms of online communication; ensure children sign an acceptable use policy, agreeing to behave safely and treat others with kindness online
- teach children the SMART rules

The SMART rules



Safe: Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you're chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.



Meet: Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time.



Accepting: Accepting emails, messages, or opening files, images or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!



Reliable: Someone online might lie about who they are and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information by looking at other websites, in books, or with someone who knows. If you like chatting online it's best to only chat to your real-world friends and family.



Tell: Tell a parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone, or something, makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

What can you do at home?

Get involved in your children's internet use. Discussing the opportunities and risks with children involves helping them to see for themselves how they might get into and out of difficulty.

- Agree rules as a family about not disclosing personal information – such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name – about time spent online, and contacting people via the internet. We also advise that children should not be accessing the internet unsupervised.
- Bookmark your family's favourite websites. Add www.ceop.police.uk to your favourites if you ever need to report online abuse to the police.
- Encourage children to talk to someone they trust if they feel worried or upset by something that happens online.
- Make use of available filtering and monitoring software. These can help to block inappropriate material but remember they are not 100% effective and are no substitute for adult involvement and supervision. For more advice see: www.getnetwise.org

There are real advantages in maintaining an open dialogue with your child about their internet use. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help ...

Ask your children to tell you about the websites and apps they like to use and what they enjoy doing online.

Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.

Encourage them to help someone! Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.

Think about how you each use the internet. What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

Cyber bullying and social networking

CYBERBULLYING

New technologies provide an apparently anonymous method by which bullies can torment their victims at any time of the day or night. While the bullying may not be physical, the victim may receive an email, chat or text messages or be the target of unfavourable websites or social networking profiles that make them feel embarrassed, upset, depressed or afraid. This can damage their self-esteem and pose a threat to their psychological well-being.

For more advice on preventing and responding to cyberbullying see:

www.digizen.org



SOCIAL NETWORKING

Social networking services like Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and Twitter are places online where young people can create personalised web-pages in order to express themselves and share ideas and opinions with others. Such apps are not permitted within school, but are easily accessible at home. These services enable them to meet and socialise online by linking to other people and therefore create an environment for the whole of their social network to easily exchange information and chat.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Personal information and contact details can be contained in a profile or could be disclosed during online conversations. Such information can lead to children and their social network receiving unwanted contact from inappropriate people. Children can also post comments or images of themselves or others online, which may compromise their or their friends' safety or be used as a means to bully others.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- If your child has a smartphone, make sure you are aware of the social networking apps the children are using and limit the use of them.
- Learn from and teach children how to use these applications responsibly.
- Check the privacy settings available and encourage children to make their profiles accessible only to people known offline.
- Encourage young people to keep their personal information to a minimum and to think very carefully before including a personal photograph of themselves or their friends in their profile. Photos online can easily be copied, changed and used elsewhere, and can potentially stay online forever.

For further information on social networking safety visit:

www.childnet.com/downloads/blog_safety.pdf

