Newton Hill Community School – E-Safeguarding Newsletter –

Autumn 2023/2024

Safety tips

It is important to talk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and make sure that they know that they should always talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns. **Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary.**

We would recommend you explore any app with your child and suggest why certain options are safer, for example, setting your account so only friends (rather than everyone) can see your content and only those you are friends with can contact you.

According to the latest research from Ofcom, nearly half of all 3-4 year olds have their own tablet (Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2022) so it is never too early to start chatting to our children about how to stay safe online. But how can we do this? Here are some of our suggestions:

Use books to spark conversations

Childnet have created a collection of five 'Digiduck' stories to help you educate your child (aimed at aged 3–7) about online safety. The stories are available here:

https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories/.

Other useful resources

In addition, Childnet have created a learning-to-read book for children aged 4 and above titled 'On the internet.' The book also includes puzzles to encourage conversations. The book can be downloaded here:

https://www.childnet.com/resources/a-learning-to-read-book/

Online Games

Is your child playing or watching others play games online? Your child could be using Twitch, Steam, Roblox, YouTube etc to access games or watch others play. We need to make sure that what they are viewing is appropriate for them. It is important to talk to your child to see what they are interested in so you can have a look first to see if they are appropriate.

For example, there are games that may appear to be appropriate but are actually horror/ survival games and characters can turn more sinister as the game progresses. It is important to remember that children may be playing the game, watching videos of it on sites such as YouTube or playing replicated versions on Roblox for example.

More information

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/onlinegames/

Watch Jessie & Friends together

ThinkuKnow have created three different animations for three age groups between 4 – 7 years. ThinkuKnow also provide some useful guidance and advice on what else you can do to keep your child safer online, such as setting up appropriate parental controls. You can find out more here:

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends/

Is your child under 5?

This article is specifically aimed at those with children under the age of 5 and discusses the benefits of being online as well as how to create a safer online environment. You can read the article here:

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/keeping-your-under-fivesafe-online/