Online-Safety

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
Please speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead: **Hannah Pallôt** or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: **Rachel Heffer** immediately with any concerns.

MARU: **0300 1231 116** LADO: **01872 326536**

What do we mean by 'online-safety'?
Online Safety (sometimes referred to as 'e-Safety') is a term used to cover the broad, continually developing and sometimes complex issues around the online aspects of risks including child sexual exploitation, sexting, bullying, radicalisation, gaming, inappropriate content and undoubtedly, the impact of social media. In short, it is a safeguarding issue where technology is involved.

As children interact with the online world at an increasingly younger age, appropriate discussions as early as possible are very important. Equally, online-safety also applies to adults and professionals, from keeping us safe, upholding expected professional standards of conduct (both inside and outside of the work environment) through to setting positive examples as role models for the children in our care.

Want to know more?
OFCOM produce an annual report into children and parent's media use and attitudes. It is an incredibly useful and interesting report; the 2020/21 report can be [here in various formats](#) (the 'chart pack' is a very 'user friendly' format)
[Think U Know](#) which is created by The National Crime Agency's CEOP Education team have a wealth of resources for parents and professionals. [This link](#) takes you to the professionals part of the site.

Why is it important?
Unlike previous generations, we cannot adequately consider the safeguarding and wellbeing of Children & Young People without considering their relationship to technology. Equipping our children with the skills and confidence to recognise the potential risks will help them to develop into confident and resilient users of the online environment – online-safety is a skill for life that will continue to support them into adulthood.

[The LGfL Digisafe Hopes and Steam Report 2018](#) found that 2/5 children have never told anyone about the worst thing that has happened to them online. We need to work to help more children feel confident and comfortable to share when things do go wrong online both in and out of school.

Online-Safety is not a one off annual lesson as part of the computing curriculum. It must be engrained in our day-to-day practice and conversations with children. We need to help children understand how to stay safe online both in and out of school and what to do if something does go wrong.

Knowledge V. Wisdom
Adults and professionals often cite children's confidence with technology versus their own perceived lack of knowledge as a major barrier to having discussions about staying safe in the online world. Whilst children may appear to have more knowledge about the online environment, they will not necessarily possess the associated wisdom that comes through life experience. We need to work to ensure that children are equipped to not only spot when something has gone wrong but also with the tools to know what to do if something does go wrong whilst they are online.

What do we do to help protect children?
- Conversations – casual, general, prompted by events
- Online-safety as part of day-to-day practice not just one off lessons
- Help children to understand what to do if something does go wrong
- Foster an environment where it's ok to share concerns
- Robust filtering on all devices in school
- Regular training for staff
- Know your children and notice if something is different for them