What is E-Safety?   - November 2023

Whilst the internet and associated technologies are an excellent tool with resource to enrich learning, there are still dangers related to their use, especially in relation to young children. Some examples of this are:

- Bullying via chat (mobile phones) or email
- Obsessive internet use
- Exposure to inappropriate materials
- Inappropriate or illegal behaviour
- Physical danger of sexual abuse

As a school it is our duty of care alongside that of parents and other members of the community to protect our children from these dangers and this can be achieved by many different mechanisms working together.

The purpose of this e-safety is to outline what measures our school takes to ensure that children can work in an e-safe environment and that any e-safety issue is detected and dealt with in a timely and appropriate fashion.

Graham James Primary Academy works with staff, pupils and parents/carers to create a school community which values the use of new technologies in enhancing learning, encourages responsible use of ICT, and follows agreed policies to minimise potential e-safety risks.

- We discuss, monitor and review our e-safety policy on a regular basis, linking it with other relevant policies such as Safeguarding, Behaviour for Learning and Anti-Bullying Policies.
- We support staff in the use of ICT as an essential tool for enhancing learning and in the embedding of e-safety across the whole school curriculum.
- We ensure that pupils are aware of the potential e-safety risks associated with the use of ICT and mobile technologies, that pupils feel able and safe to report incidents and abide by the school's e-safety policy.
- We provide opportunities for parents/carers to receive e-safety education and information, to enable them to support their children in developing good e-safety behaviour.

For further information on online safety for your child please click on the following links:

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/
http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/
http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe
http://www.childnet.com/
http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/

Report it!

If a child you know has experienced sexual or offensive chat that has made them feel uncomfortable or someone is trying to meet up with them, you can report this directly to CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre).

This may have happened in a chat room, message board, instant messenger or on a social networking site. It could be on a mobile phone, games console or computer. It could be messages, images or conversations over webcam.

The important thing is that if you know that an adult is making sexual advances to children on the internet you should report it to CEOPs immediately.

Online safety for families and children with SEND

The NSPCC has published online safety tips, advice and activities specifically for parents and carers of children with SEND.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-families-children-with-send/

What is different for learners with SEND?

The internet and technology are an integral part of everyday life for children. It is important that we acknowledge the positive opportunities the internet provides for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND); the accessibility of images and video online make it an excellent learning tool, whilst global connectivity enables children with SEND to socialise and access support.

However, children with SEND are more likely than their peers to experience online issues such as cyberbullying, online grooming and exploitation. Similarly, children with SEND are more likely to have their internet use restricted and therefore have limited opportunities to learn through experience, develop resilience or seek support, which would empower them to use technology safely.

Online safety is a fundamental part of our safeguarding responsibilities and education settings should implement a range of targeted and differentiated strategies to enable learners with SEND to access the internet safely and appropriately.

Online safety messages

For some learners, the use of abstract language and concepts can lead to confusion, frustration and misunderstandings. It is important that settings work together with their learners to build and develop a collaborative understanding of the terminology being used.

Consider:

• What does the term 'online predator' mean to a child with SEND? Is it a dangerous person or a wild animal?

• Is an online contact still a stranger if you know their name or they send a 'friend request'?

• If you must never share personal information online, how do you tell online shops where to deliver your orders? Be mindful that there are usually exceptions to rules which can sometimes be difficult for children with SEND to accept; ensure the 'rules' you provide are clear, consistent and not left open to interpretation.

Examples:

• A learner who finds it difficult to understand abstract meaning may not be able to interpret hidden messages or metaphors in many popular video resources.

• Instead of saying: "Don't share personal information online", consider a more realistic statement: "Always ask your trusted adult, before sharing personal information online".