SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION AT GRAHAM JAMES PRIMARY ACADEMY

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For further information, please see our Child Protection Policy.

https://grahamjamesacademy.co.uk/key-information/policies/

Here at Graham James, we Safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and it is everyone's responsibility.

Everyone who comes into contact with our children and you, their families, has a role to play. To fulfil this responsibility effectively, we all make sure our approach is child centred. This means that we consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child.

How to keep children safe while gaming

Video games are fun and popular among younger and older users alike with research by Ofcom in 2024 showing that approximately 60% of all children age 3-17 play video games. It's important to remember that gaming can come with risks. Some have in-game purchasing while others contain age-inappropriate content. These risks can significantly increase when children are interacting with others online.

Safer schools' online safety experts have compiled the following top tips to promote a safer gaming experience for children.

1. Choose an age-appropriate game
2. Have ongoing conversations about gaming and online safety
3. The importance of keeping usernames random
4. Establish screen time limits
5. Teach them who their trusted adults are

My Child's First Device

5 steps to make phones, tablets, laptops, gaming consols safer after Christmas

This Christmas, you might have decided to give your child their first phone, tablet, laptop or gaming console. This is a big decision as the responsibility and freedom that comes with owning a device is a big step for children. It might even be their first 'grown up' responsibility.

As a parent or carer, it is important to remember that even if a child is tech-savvy, they need to be taught how to be tech-safe. We know this can be daunting with various device brands, Apps, and settings to choose from. Safer schools' online safety experts have created five steps to help you make a device safer for the child or young person in your care.

1. Do your homework on suitable phones for children
2. Set up the device with your child
3. Discuss and agree on healthy device habits
4. Check-in with your child/open door policy
5. Keep yourself informed/up to date with technology

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.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED POSTER - SNAPCHAT – A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS' – FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ON A POPULAR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM.
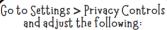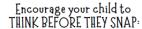
Snapchat

A Guide for Parents & Carers

Snapchat is a communication service. Users can take photos, record videos, add text or drawings (called Snaps) and send them to Friends. Snaps disappear after the recipient views it, or within 24 hours (for a Story or Chat).

Privacy

Go to Settings > Privacy Controls and adjust the following:

- Who Can Contact Me: Set to 'My Friends' to limit messages from strangers
- View My Story: Select 'My Friends' or create a custom list
- See my location: Enable 'Ghost Mode' to hide your child's location
- Contact me: Click 'Friends'
- Quick Add: Disable to prevent strangers from easily adding your child

Snaps

Encourage your child to THINK BEFORE THEY SNAP:

- Remember that screenshots can be taken and content might not be as 'temporary' as it seems
- Don't share any of your personal details
- Would your parents/carers approve?
- Have you asked permission to post photos or videos of other people?
- Have you used your online manners?

Snapstreaks

A Snapstreak tracks the number of consecutive days two users exchange snaps. Snapstreaks may contribute to a user's Snapchat score (a number reflecting app activity).

For a child, Snapstreaks can feel like a measure of friendship, creating pressure to maintain them, which can lead to stress or anxiety. It's important to discuss healthy app use with your child.

Family Centre

Family Centre allows you to monitor your child's activity, including usage, contacts and privacy settings. There is also an option to restrict your child from using My AI (AI chatbot).

Install the app and link your account by adding them as a friend. While you won't have access to the specific content they've sent or received, you can view their friend list and see who they've interacted with in the past 7 days.

Snap Map

Snap Map shows your child's location on a map in real time. Only their friends can see where they are.

You can turn this off by enabling Ghost Mode, which allows you to see the map but not be seen by others.

NOTE: Your child can submit snaps to the Snap Map and their name and location could appear on a public map.

Check

Regularly review Snapchat's features and updates to understand new tools or risks.

Have an open dialogue about your child's Snapchat usage and how often they are using the app.

Encourage them to share what they're experiencing and periodically check that they are staying safe and happy online.

Encourage your child to come to you if ANYTHING online makes them feel uncomfortable, upset or worried.

Parking around the school

Please, be mindful of our neighbours when parking around the school. Parking is not permitted along the double yellow lines outside of the NHS building. Please, think about the safety of our children and families. If possible, park a short distance away and walk to our school. Unless you have permission to park in our staff car park, you should not be entering, as quite often staff are coming and going to meetings.

Please, walk along the school path and please, do not be tempted to take a shortcut through our car park. Please be a good role model for our children. Remind our children that they should not be riding bikes or scooters until they are fully off school premises.

Citizens Advice

https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/

For 85 years, we've been helping to shape a society that's fairer for everyone - working on issues that affect the whole of society.

We can all face problems that seem complicated or intimidating. At Citizens Advice we believe no one should have to face these problems without good quality, independent advice.

That's why we're here: to give people the knowledge and the confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are, and whatever their problem.

We give advice to millions of people

Our network of independent charities offers confidential advice online, over the phone, and in person, for free. When we say we're for everyone, we mean it. People rely on us because we're independent and totally impartial.

We also give advice on consumer rights on our consumer helpline, support witnesses in courts through the Witness Service and give pension guidance to people aged over 50.

We help millions of people every year. In 2022-23, this included:

- 42.7 million visits to our website
- 457,000 people helped face to face (more than double the previous year)
- 1.8 million people using our phone service
- 895,000 helped by email or webchat
- 79,000 witnesses supported through the Witness Service

In total we helped over 2.66 million people find a way forward with one-to-one advice. Our advice website had over 60 million views of our online self-help advice