E-Safety Information for Parents/Carers

This is a parent and carer summary of our E-safety Policy. A copy of the full policy can be found in the website, or requested from the school Office. Large print or audio versions are also available on request if required.

E-safety is defined as the **safe and responsible use of technology**. This includes the use of the internet and also other means of communication using electronic media (e.g. text messages, gaming devices, email etc).
In practice, e-safety is as much about behaviour as it is electronic security.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (dDSL)	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (dDSL)	Online Safety Lead (E-safety)
Miss Anna Payne	**Miss Bryony Dorrans**	**Miss Sophie Hunt**	**Mrs Kirsten Gibbs**
safeguardingteam@Abbeyschool.co.uk			Kirstengibbs@abbeyschool.co.uk

If you are worried about your own, or another child, you can contact these members of staff for support.

Principles

The purpose of this document is for parents to understand and agree the school's approach to e-safety and understand that e-safety applies to us all, shaping a positive online culture at Abbey School. We recognise that the online world provides everyone with many opportunities; however, it can also present risks and challenges. We work in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies to promote children's welfare and support them to be responsible, in their approach to online safety and develop safe, long-term behaviours.

Online Safety

We promote online safety through our PSHE and Computing curriculum. KS2 pupils and parents sign an 'acceptable use policy,' which outlines our rules and expectations of using technology and internet at school. Infant and Nursery pupils are always closely supervised and guided when using technology and internet.

Within our PSHE, curriculum, online safety is covered from Year 1 to Year 6 including, online bullying, image sharing and online strangers including possible dangers and consequences of talking to strangers online.

Supporting Parents and Carers

We are always happy to support parents/carers with online safety at home. Please get in touch if you would appreciate additional support – for example, setting up parental controls. The following websites are useful sources of support for parents/carers.

- Online Safety for Children
  https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/

- Parental Guides for Everything E-Safety
  https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides

- Resources for Parents and Children (including SEND)
  https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

- Parental Guide to Technology
  https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers

To help protect children while they're online, you can follow these steps:

- encourage them to talk to you about how they use the internet and show you what they do - make sure they know they can come to you for advice.
- have an agreement in place and set boundaries for their internet use, such as when and where they can use their devices and for how long.
- check age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks to confirm whether they're suitable.
- activate parental controls on your home network and all devices including mobile phones and game consoles.
- safe settings can also be activated on sites such as Google, YouTube and iPlayer.
- get to grips with the blocking and report functions on any gaming sites and make sure they know how to use them too.
- make sure they're aware of the risks of sharing images online and that you both know how to remove content should you need to.

Peer-on-Peer Abuse

Children are encouraged to talk to adults both in and out of school, if anything is worrying them or making feel safe online. Positive and respectful relationships between pupils are promoted throughout our PSHE curriculum, School Values and ICT curriculum. We understand that children will make mistakes and need support to build respectful online relationships and caring friendships with peers.

Sexual and emotional abuse online (including sending inappropriate photos, emojis and text 'slang') of children by other children will be dealt with using our anti-bullying and behaviour policies. When the school is alerted of online abuse, parents/carers of the child/children involved will be contacted.

Concerns of sexual abuse will usually be referred to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). We recognise that sexualised behaviour in children is often an indicator of sexual abuse and will treat both children affected as victims in need of care and safeguarding.

In extreme circumstances, it may be necessary to report incidents to the police. The age of legal accountability in the UK is 10 years old.

Please be aware Abbey School staff are legally obligated to follow safeguarding and legal procedures. Unless we believe the child will be put at further risk, we will inform parents/carers of any referrals to outside agencies and seek consent. We will always endeavour to work with parents/carers as a team to safeguard children. However, if statutory intervention is needed a referral must be made with or without consent.