



5 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Staying safe online

Children and young people have spent much more time on devices than ever before during lockdown, so here is some information about staying safe online and principles you can remind your children about.

It is really important children get the opportunity to chat to friends, so it was good to hear that many of them have been chatting online during lockdown. We know this is continuing over the summer, so please reinforce some key messages about appropriate behaviour to keep everyone safe and happy.

Across the country, there have been reports of children being upset by unkind comments on chat apps and children are still sharing personal details and images with people they are communicating with online (some they do not know who they really are). This can usually be avoided if we remind children how to keep safe online, to look out for their friends, not say anything that they would not like to hear themselves, and always stop or stand up for others if someone gets upset.

Please remind your children if they do see something that worries them or that might be wrong, all they need to do is ask for help from a trusted adult. They could talk to you or they may feel more comfortable talking anonymously to Childline. If you or they are concerned about an adult's behaviour towards a child online, report them to CEOP. And as a parent, you can also contact the NSPCC - O2 advice line on 0808 800 5002. Please monitor your child's online activity and offer advice and guidance where necessary.

Below are two links that will help with staying safe online:

- <https://swgfl.org.uk/online-safety/10-online-safety-tips/> (General advice for keeping safe online)
- <https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/> (information on how to stay safe when using social media, including advice on privacy / profile settings for Instagram, Snap Chat and TikTok)

Yours sincerely

Mr S Adorian
Headteacher