

Online Safety Newsletter – May 2024

Please take the time to update yourself on the most recent developments regarding online safety.

Questions parents commonly ask about online safety.



What are the biggest dangers for children online right now?

The biggest dangers to children online right now include cyberbullying, online predators, and exposure to inappropriate content. These risks can lead to emotional distress, compromised safety, and negative impacts on mental health.

At what age should my child get a smartphone?

This can vary depending on factors such as maturity level. However, it is becoming increasingly understood that the longer this can be delayed, the better. A recent study suggests that the older they receive their first smartphone, the better their mental health is as a young adult. Many experts suggest around 12-14 is a suitable age for their first smartphone. ‘Dumb-phones’ are becoming more common for younger children whose parents still wish to remain in touch with or know their whereabouts.

Should I set up a social media account even though they are under the age restriction?

Setting up a social media account for a child who is under the age restriction raises serious concerns about their safety, privacy, and exposure to inappropriate content. It's highly advisable to wait until they reach the minimum age requirement set by the platform and to supervise their online activities closely to ensure a safer and more positive online experience.

But all their friends have accounts; should I still get them one so they don't miss out?

While they may feel pressure to join to avoid missing out, it's crucial to prioritise their safety and development by exploring alternative ways for them to socialise with peers in a controlled and age-appropriate manner. Encouraging offline activities, fostering real-life social connections, and gradually introducing online platforms when they are older can help mitigate the risks associated with early social media use. The more parents that commit to this, the less likely they will feel like they are missing out.

How can I limit screen time and encourage healthier online habits?

Limit screen time by establishing clear boundaries, such as setting designated times for device use and encouraging offline activities. Use monitoring software such as Google Family Link or Apple Family Sharing to set limits.



If you have any questions or concerns regarding online safety, please do not hesitate to contact our school.