

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As a school we have duty to keep your child safe both online and in the real world. We are aware that many of our children have access at home to various websites and games, some of which are not age appropriate for primary school children. Although it is your choice as a parent/guardian to decide what your child can or cannot access online, we feel it is important to raise the awareness of how you can keep them safe when they are using devices which access the internet.

Advice from the NSPCC on keeping your child safe online

Explore sites and apps together

1. Talk about what might be OK for children of different ages. Ask your child what sites, games or apps they like. Write a list and look at them together.
2. Be positive about what you see but also be open about concerns you have: "I think this site's really good" or "I'm a little worried about things I've seen here".
3. Talk to your child about what you think is appropriate – but also involve them in the conversation. Ask what they think is OK for children of different ages – they'll feel involved in the decision-making.
4. Be aware that your child might talk about friends who use apps or visit sites that you've decided aren't suitable. Be ready to discuss your reasons but recognise that they may not agree with you.
5. Go through a final list of sites you both agree are OK and work out when you'll next discuss it.

Ask about things they might see online which make them feel uncomfortable

1. Talk about things they, or their friends, have seen or heard about that made them feel uncomfortable.
2. Be specific. What exactly made them feel uncomfortable and why? Is it people or animals being hurt? Nasty comments about others?
3. Link these to things in the real world and explain that you're always here to protect and help them online and offline.
4. Reassure your child that they can always talk to you about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable and remind them that they can talk to adults at school as well.
5. Show them how to block on the sites and apps they use. Use <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> to find out how.
6. Show them how to use the CEOP tool to report anything online that has made them feel uncomfortable at <http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Finally, please use and reinforce the SMART rules. These are the online safety rules we use at school and your child should be familiar with them.



S Keep your personal information **safe** and **secure**. If someone asks you for any kind of personal information don't give it to them. Check with an adult first.

M Never agree to **meet** anyone that you chat to on the internet; they may not be who you think they are. Always let an adult know if this happens to you.

A Do not **accept** unusual e-mails or messages. They may contain nasty viruses that can damage your computer or they may have nasty messages from people who are not very nice.

R Remember, information on the internet may not be true. Always double check any information on a more **reliable** website.

T If anything makes you feel worried **tell** your parents, teachers or an adult that you trust. They can help!

Please visit the Online Safety page for parents on our school website at <https://drove-pri.swindon.sch.uk/learning/esafety/> for lots of useful information and links to other helpful websites.

If you have any concerns or questions about the online safety of your child, please feel free to arrange a meeting and I will be happy to support you.

Kind Regards

Drove Primary School

