

Online safety advice- Parents

Parents and Carers play a crucial role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use the internet and mobile devices in an appropriate way. Hales Valley Trust will therefore take every opportunity to help parents understand these issues through parents' evenings, newsletters, letters, websites and Learning Platforms, and information about national and local online safety incentives and literature

Parents and carers will be responsible for:

- Endorsing (by signature) the Student / Pupil Acceptable Use Agreement
- Accessing the school website / School Learning Platform in accordance with the relevant school Acceptable Use /AUA.
- Promoting good online safety practice by following guidelines on the appropriate use of digital and video images taken at school and at academy events.
- Ensuring that cameras on their mobile phones are not used on the school premises during meetings and when dropping off and collecting the children from school.
- Only taking photographs of their child when visiting school to celebrate events/achievements where the Headteacher has granted permission

As a school community it is important to keep all our children safe online. By having open conversations with our children about their online activity we are taking an active role in keeping our children safe. Here are some practical tips for when our children are online:

1. **Use digital devices together-** play games and have fun together online. Teach the children good habits such as limiting screen time and setting passwords to protect information.
2. **Set clear expectations-** Set some positive rules together. Have family rules about what is acceptable online, limit screen time and stick to age appropriate apps.
3. **Be informed-** many apps and games have parental controls in place to restrict content and access. **Always check these before the children use them.**
4. **Establish good habits early on-** have conversations about staying safe online. In school we teach the SMART rules. This may be a good way to start a conversation.



We also teach our children that sometimes people think a virtual world is very different to the real world. We teach them that anything that is posted online can be seen and never goes away. Talk to your children about the sort of messages, posts and comments they make online. Would they say it in real life? If not, they should not be saying it in the digital world.

Here are some weblinks to useful websites that will help you further when talking to your child about online safety. If you need any further assistance, we are always happy to help here in school.

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/resources-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://parentinfo.org/>

<https://www.lgfl.net/online-safety/default.aspx>