Manston Primary Online Safety Guide for Parents and Carers

working together as a team to provide a quality learning environment and to help everyone achieve their best.

Working Together

Hopefully this booklet will help parents support their children when accessing the internet. No parent can monitor their children round the clock, and it may be tempting to take the easy way out and block access entirely but the internet is a valuable tool, more integral to our modern lives than ever, and necessary for children to learn to navigate safely when using social media networks and smartphone apps for chatting and sharing multimedia online.

Put yourself in control
Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or by visiting internetmatters.org

Search safely
Use safe search engines such as swiggle.org.uk or kids-search.com. Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines as well as YouTube. You can find out more at google.co.uk/safetycentre.

Agree boundaries
It's never too early to start setting rules about when and for how long your child can use devices and start to introduce the subject of internet safety as soon as possible. Encourage children to use devices in a communal area. Be clear what your child can and can't do online – where they can use the internet, how much time they can spend online, the sites they can visit and the type of information they can share. Agree with your child when they can have a mobile phone or tablet.

Help them learn through games

Games are a great way for young children to explore the internet and learn about the world around them. You can choose safe, fun and educational games free of charge from providers such as Fisher Price.

Check if it's suitable

The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. The minimum age limit is 13 for several social networking sites, including Facebook, Instagram and YouTube (there is a kids version created specifically to make it safer for children https://www.youtube.com/yt/kids/).

Explore together

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to ask them to tell you about it.

- Set your homepage to a child-friendly site and use privacy settings wherever they exist to keep their information private.
- Discuss with your child the importance of being a good online friend and not to say nasty things even if it's just a joke
- Start conversations when your children won't be embarrassed, for example in the car going home from school
- Ask them for advice on how to do something online and use this as a conversation starter
- Make sure they know they can come to you if they're upset by something they've seen online
- Be sensitive and praise them when they share their online experiences with you and always remain calm and listen without judging.
- Talk about online grooming as you would stranger danger and explain that people they meet online might not be who they say they are.
- Tell them to only talk to real life friends or family if they are on sites with a social media element like Moshi Monsters or Club Penguin.

- Take notice of the age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networking sites – they are there for a reason.
- Talk about the benefits and risks of social networking and let them know anything they upload, email or message could stay around for ever.
- Suggest they don't post anything they wouldn't want you to see.
- Make sure they know how to block abusive comments and report content that worries them.

Facts

One third of 3 to 4 year olds are using tablets and pre-school children are online for an average of 71 minutes a day so it is important you are aware of what they can access online.
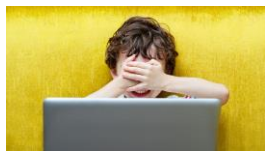
65% of parents are worried about their 6 to 10 year olds viewing inappropriate content online. This can easily happen when online access is not monitored.

62% of 11 year olds and 69% of 12 year olds have a face book page despite the minimum age of 13.

One in eight 12-15s say they have been bullied on social media, which is as likely as face-to-face bullying. The more chance a child spends online the risk increases. For further information click on:

https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying/learn-about-it/#what_is_cyberbullying

Cyberbullying - is when someone bullies others using electronic means, this might involve social media and messaging services on the internet, accessed on a mobile phone, tablet or gaming platform. The behaviour is usually repeated and at times can be as subtle as leaving someone out of a group chat or cropping them out of a picture.