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| **Online Safety for Children and Young People**  **Policy** | |
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**Online safety for children and Young People**

We recognise that the modern world can be a dangerous place for our young people. Our aim is to help our children develop the resilience and self-confidence needed to avoid exploitation by others in whatever form it may occur, whether that be sexual or political exploitation. The aim of this policy addresses the need for young people to be alert to the potential dangers of online interactions, and to be aware of the need for vigilance to ensure their own safety and well-being.

**Working with children, parents, and carers.**

* We work in a three-way relationship with child, parents and teacher. This close working relationship aims to support the developing needs of the children.
* The class teacher is with the children in their class almost daily for 8 years. The relationship which develops between the children and the class teacher is one of mutual respect and trust. In this situation, the children are more likely to feel that they can talk to an adult about things which are troubling them.
* In these primary years, we work with parents, to help them to understand the need to be vigilant and supportive regarding their children’s internet use.
* Screen usage is on the agenda of every parents’ evening where teachers actively discourage the use of computers and mobile phones by children. We warn of the dangers of internet activities both in the sense of the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual development of the child, and in the sense of internet safety.
* The teachers also intervene in the event of overheard or overt conversations about any screen use. They comment on the suitability of activity to the children and if there are further concerns, a direct conversation with the parents of those children will ensue.
* The teachers talk to the children about the dangers of screen use, in particular online safety, whenever the opportunity arises. This may be following a classroom incident or conversation.
* We recognise that there are dangers inherent in a potential naivety around internet use, and that digital media is becoming more and more ubiquitous in everyday life. We will talk openly with the children as they acquire phones and other internet technology, warning them of the dangers and encouraging sensible and age appropriate use.
* Our curriculum and the way we work with the children develops confidence and assertiveness. Their opinions are respected by staff who also encourage peer to peer respect. This leads to the children developing resilience as they have more confidence in their own opinions and are more likely to speak out when they feel that something is not right.
* We have ongoing training for staff in how to listen to children so that they are confident in their responses to potential disclosure. This will reinforce our online training in this area.
* Classes have weekly opportunities to share news. These informal, relaxed sessions offer the opportunity for children to raise concerns and for teachers to understand more about a child’s home life. In this atmosphere, concerns are much more likely to be discussed freely.