

Home Learning – Safe Internet Use - Guidance for Parents and Carers

The last week has been one of change for all of us, and not least is the way in which activities and tasks for pupils to complete at home are accessed. All staff have been busy uploading lessons and tasks of all types, in order for learning to continue at home. Some of these tasks include online learning, and it is important for us as a school to provide guidance on how to keep your children safe whilst working online.

The guidance that follows is intended to help parents and carers to manage pupil's online learning at home while schools are closed.

As previously mentioned, we do not expect children and families to complete all of the work that is being posted onto the HOME LEARNING section on our website, and this includes accessing and completing all online tasks via a weblink.

- ✓ The work being posted will have been checked by the staff member as a suitable site for children to access. However, we cannot be responsible for external links to other sites that may appear on websites. Wherever possible, links to educational websites will be used, and that are child friendly. If you have a concern about any of the links please contact the school.
- ✓ Limit the amount of screen time for your child. Try to mix-up the online activities with other activities that do not require use of ICT equipment. As stated in the Home Learning guidance, these may include physical exercise, reading, creativity, cooking, gardening, and other activities such as watching films, playing board/card games or chatting with each other as a family.
- ✓ When using the internet, pupils should be encouraged to use the acronym SMART –

S- Safe - Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

M – Meeting - Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together.

A – Accepting – Think carefully before you click on or open something online, e.g. links, friend requests, adverts or photos, as you never know where they may lead, or if they contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is, or what they've sent to you.

R – Reliable - You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

T- Tell - Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents or carers.

- ✓ If your child has a specific concern about online content, or indeed any concern, they can:-
 - contact us via the “report a concern” link on the home page of their School 360 account. This is for pupils of Glendale Middle School.
 - For pupils of Wooler First School, they can report any concerns via Purple Mash, or by emailing their class teacher on the email address provided to them.

- ✓ There are many other ways to report a concern about inappropriate content and activity online. Below is a list of links of websites that contain useful information about keeping your child safe online, and where such concerns can be reported.

[Childline](#)

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[CEOP](#)

[Internet matters](#)

[London Grid for Learning](#)

[Net-aware](#)

[Parent info](#)

[Thinkuknow](#)

BBC Own It is an app and web platform which aims to support digital wellbeing and help children and young people to make informed choices online. You can access it through this link -

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/about-us/own-it-app-parents-view?collection=about-own-it>

- ✓ Please encourage your child to “be kind online”. The web has opened up the floodgates to hurtful, public, bullying behaviour, often without a real awareness of the hurt that words can cause. Cyber bullying is growing and we all need to play a part in trying to stop it. Please encourage your children to think about:
 - What they are saying?
 - Who they are saying it to?
 - Who will be affected?
 - How will this affect them down the line?
 - Who can see what they are saying?
 - How they would feel if they or their loved ones were the ones being bullied?

- ✓ Most importantly – please talk to your child about what they are doing when they are using the computer. Be vigilant to the online content they are accessing, and wherever possible, talk to them about their safety online. The sites mentioned above can be a fantastic learning tool, and an equally fantastic way for you and your child to work together to discuss the importance of internet safety.

Stay safe. Stay safe online. Be kind online.