GREAT ARLEY SCHOOL

Staying Safe Online

...a guide for Parents and Carers

The range and complexity of today's technology can often seem bewildering for many adults, particularly with older children who may seem to be permanently 'connected'. Parents and Carers are key partners in helping to safeguard our children when using technologies such as Laptops, Tablets, Smartphones and Games Consoles - as such, it is useful to agree some ground rules to support their safe use. Use the checklist below and those points opposite as starting points. The list of recommended resources on the left are great sources of information which outline some of the potential risks and provide supporting information for parents and carers.

Childnet International	www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers
CBBC BBC	www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe
THINK U KNOW	www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents
UK Safer Internet Centre	www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers
PEGI	www.pegi.info/en/index/
internet matters.org	www.internetmatters.org/technologies/parental-controls.html
	www.vodafone.com/content/parents.html

Some useful suggestions to get started...

- ☐ Don't be put off by the technology - remember Knowledge v. Wisdom (what would we do if the technology wasn't involved ?)
- ☐ Agree some ground rules - set out your expectations (and why). e.g. when can they go online and for how long (don't forget, most gaming consoles now use the Internet as well) ?
- ☐ Talk to your child about the online world - what do they like, what worries them and what to do if something goes wrong
- ☐ Get your child to talk to you - Not confident? Don't know your Tweets from your Snaps? Consider a 'role swap' and let your child become your teacher to increase your own knowledge
- ☐ Consider parental controls - solutions don't need to be technical but filters on the home internet connection can help to screen inappropriate content
- ☐ Don't jump to conclusions if something goes wrong - we all make mistakes. Some sites/apps may include 'clickbait' in order to generate advertising income.
- ☐ Ensure privacy settings are set up on apps/sites and gaming consoles - there are often more options than typically thought but remember we still need to be careful what we share
- ☐ Keep an open dialogue - problems often go unreported for fear of losing access to the technologies they treasure

and finally...

- ☐ DON'T FORGET THE POSITIVES - whilst the use of technology brings potential risks, it is part of our world and also provides immense opportunities and benefits

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