



Eastlea Primary School

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03 February 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

E-safety information for parents/carers

E-safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Eastlea Primary School. We have extensive security measures in place in school, which are monitored both internally and externally, to help safeguard pupils from potential dangers or unsuitable material. Any e-safety incidents are recorded and managed in accordance with our e-safety policy. E-safety is taught to all pupils explaining and demonstrating how to stay safe and behave appropriately online.

We can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you to ensure the e-safety message is consistent. Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep safe and behave appropriately online. Recently we have had some parents express concerns about children's behaviour online. Children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to unwanted or unpleasant content or comments online and there are steps at home to minimise this risk.

A particular concern, which has come to our attention today, is the 'oovoo' app. Some pupils have been victim to an unpleasant and indecent incident involving an unknown adult. Due to our liaison with the police today, we have been advised to stop the children using 'oovoo'. It is an open video chat forum, where children can be exposed to people / videos, which can be extremely upsetting for a child. The police are coming in, in the near future, to talk to the children about e-safety and all staff today are reminding the children how important it is to stay safe online, especially using mobile phones.

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What can parents / carers can do? Follow the Golden Rules!

Ground rules

- Discuss as a family how the internet will be used in your house. Consider what should be kept private online (personal information, photos etc) and decide rules for making online friends.

Online safety

- Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions for computers, mobile phones and games consoles, to block unsuitable content or contact.

Location

- Locate your computer / laptop in a supervised family area. Always supervise the use of webcams and video chats. Consider your child's use of other devices that allow internet access such as Mobile Phones and Games consoles.

Dialogue

- Talk to your child and ask them to teach you how to use the internet, learn which websites or tools they like to use and why. Learning together can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour with your child.
- Always ensure your child knows how to block or report people online who send nasty or inappropriate messages or content. Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply.
- Make sure your child knows to tell an adult they trust if they see something online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.
- It's essential to be realistic – banning the internet or technology will not work and it often makes a child less likely to report a problem. Education around safe use is essential.

Websites for more information:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk - Visit the Parent/ carer section and use the 'Click CEOP' button to seek advice and report online abuse.

www.childnet.com – Visit the 'Know it All' section for an interactive guide about online safety

www.getsafeonline.org – free up to date security advice

www.bbc.co.uk/online/safety

The e-safety Coordinator, Mrs Atkinson, is available to discuss any help or concerns that you may have.

Mrs Sarah Atkinson

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