



Dear Parents / Carers

Keeping your children safe online during school closure

We have been fortunate at this time to have access to the internet with its amazing resources, games and communities. At Paternoster School we make sure our pupils are aware of some of the risks to safety that are online and what they can do to stay safe. Within school we have monitoring and safeguarding measures in place to ensure that your children are safe online and encourage parents/carers to talk to their children about how to behave safely when online, to ensure pupils remain safe when browsing or using online gaming platforms at home.

We are committed to improving Online Safety, not only in school, but at home as well. During this period of school closure, we have provided links to safe online platforms that we use in school – such as Busy Things and Education City. However, your child may have increased free time to access the internet and online games.

Whilst in school, all children have exposure to the internet and, where applicable, are reminded of the importance of keeping themselves safe online.

At home, sometimes children can be given unsupervised access to the internet. This, potentially, allows them to access all kinds of society (both good and bad) and bring them virtually into their homes.

It is important that you monitor their online activities, particularly as they have increased access at this time.

Here are 5 safety tips to help to keep your children safe online:

- 1. Get Permission** – Teach your child to always get permission before using the computer and always try to sit with them. If you can't sit with them, make them use the computer in an open area so you can see what they are doing.
- 2. Use updated plugins and ISP (Internet Service Provider) parental controls** – Always update your browser (e.g. Chrome or Firefox) and download a plugin that will stop your child from accidentally visiting suspicious websites.
- 3. Use a child friendly search engine** – A child friendly search engine will only list search results which they feel are suitable for children. Some examples are: KidRex.org or SafeSearchKids.com
- 4. Keep personal information private** – Remind your child not to give out information through emails and registration forms. If they are unsure, then encourage them to ask you first.
- 5. Encourage openness** – Encourage your child to come to you if they encounter anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable or threatened. Try not to get angry and blame them otherwise they might not turn to you when they need help in the future.

Parents Checklist:

1. I have asked my child to show me the sites they use.
2. I have explained to my child the need to set any social media profiles to private.
3. I have asked my child about their online friends.
4. I have set appropriate parental controls on my child's computer, mobile devices, tablet and games console.
5. My child has agreed to tell me if they are worried or upset about something online.
6. I know where to get help if I am concerned about my child.

<https://parentinfo.org/> provides advice and guidance for parents, including online gaming and apps.

Other sites which provide support for parents:



Online safety helpline:
0808 800 5002



The following internet providers offer additional parental controls and security:



If you have any concerns about the best way to keep your child safe online while at home, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you