



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Nova Lane, Birstall, West Yorkshire, WF17 9LQ

Telephone: 01924 423220

Website: www.stpatricksbirstall.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs C Moulding

Deputy Headteacher: Miss J Smith

Email: office.stpatricksbirstall@kirkleeseducation.uk

30th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the internet and online accessibility increases all the time, we as a school are doing everything we can to educate our children in appropriate behaviour when using the internet and how to stay safe and protect themselves when using the internet. As we do at the start of every academic year, we are having a focus on online safety with the pupils - ensuring they understand appropriate behaviour when using the internet, knowing how to keep safe online and what to do if they see or hear something that makes them feel uncomfortable whilst they are using the internet.

We also want to support families in ensuring that you know how to protect your child and make sure they are staying safe online. There are so many APPs out there, and most have age restrictions and parental control settings that you may not be aware of.

On our school website, under the tab '[Our Parents](#)' then from the drop down menu '[Our Safeguarding](#)' section, you will find lots of links and updated information regarding the different APPs that are available which we hope you will take time to read through and find useful. There is also a further page of parent advice on the drop down menu, '[Our Online Safety Advice](#)' with tips and support links which we hope you have found useful throughout the lockdown period.

We will continue to update any advice so please keep checking the website and talk to your child about how to stay safe, monitoring their use of the internet so that any issues are spotted straight away. Please remember to ask school for help should it be needed - either through Class dojo, ringing the office and speaking to myself as Computing lead or Mrs Moulding as our Safeguarding lead.

I have added some safety tips on the reverse of this letter.

Yours Sincerely

J. Smith

Miss Smith

Deputy Headteacher





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10 tips to stay safe online

Not sure what advice to give your child? Our pointers have got you covered.

1. You should only talk to people you know and trust in real life – anyone can pretend to be a child online
2. If you do talk to people you don't know, don't give away personal information – like what street you live on or where you go to school, or share your location with them. Say no to any requests they send you for images or videos of yourself, and stop talking to them
3. Set your profiles to private, to limit what others can see
4. Be 'share aware' – think carefully about what you share and with who. Once it's out there, you've got no control over what the other person does with it. Remember, it's **illegal** to take, share or view sexual images of under-18s, full stop
5. Be mindful of your digital footprint. What you post online now could come back to bite you later, like when applying for jobs, college or university
6. If you see something upsetting, or someone bullies you, tell an adult you trust
7. Be aware that people will try to make their lives look more exciting online. There's a lot people can do with photo editing to make their photos look better. So don't assume everything you see is a true to life representation
8. Watch out for hoaxes and scams, like messages you're meant to forward on or that ask you for payment details or your password
9. Take any content that glamorises gang lifestyles with a very large pinch of salt – it's not as glamorous as it looks. Be wary of schemes promising easy cash for receiving and transferring money too, they're almost definitely criminal activity
10. Watch out for loot boxes or other parts of games where you pay money to take a chance on getting a reward – you can get sucked into spending lots of money on them



Don't feel confident starting a conversation with your child about what they're up to online? Read this advice from the NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>

