

# Cyber resilience and Internet safety at Abernethy and Deshar Primary Schools

The internet is full of fantastic opportunities for staff, pupils and families to make fantastic use of. The ability to seek out information and request support at any given time of the day is one of the things that can help protect children from violence and exploitation. However, the internet is also a place where these dangers might occur. It is therefore important to ensure all partners are informed and taught about internet safety and cyber resilience.

At Abernethy and Deshar Primary Schools digital technologies have been used for many years and we are aware that in this day and age most pupils and families have access to online devices at home. It is therefore essential that staff, pupils and parents/carers are up to date with the latest guidance on Internet safety.

Pupils might be engaging in online chats and video calls through console games, WhatsApp, Skype, Hangouts... as well as the arranged curriculum based use of ICT, but even though most of these platforms and programs offer some internet safety guidance, it is rarely read or understood by the children engaging. As a school we therefore have a responsibility to ensure pupils, staff and families are informed and educated about good practice whilst using the internet.

## Rights of the Child

In 2021 the Scottish government passed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill. As a school we are therefore striving to be a Rights Respecting School. We recognise that Children's Rights are not only present when offline but also when children are online. We can't turn the rights ON and OFF and it is important that children and adults fully understand what this means.

All rights are present when online. Here we have outlined a few; when online, a child still has the right:

- Not to be exploited or subject to violence.
- To share opinions and have these opinions accepted.
- To gain access to information
- To receive education
- To rest and play
- To come together as an association

These and all the other rights are still present and are not turned off when online. As part of our Rights Respecting School journey we have referred to the '[Children's Rights and the Internet - From Guidelines to Practice](#)' document from UNICEF. It outlines how the internet can both contribute positively and negatively when in use.

# National Action Plan on Internet Safety for Children and Young People

The Scottish Government has outlined 3 main aims in relation to internet safety for children and young people.

These are the three main aims from the Scottish Government outlined in the '[National Action Plan on Internet Safety for Children and Young People](#)':

1. Giving everybody the skills, knowledge and understanding to help children and young people stay safe online: we will help parents, carers and people who work with children and families to understand how to help children stay safe online and how to deal with problems if they occur;
2. Inspiring safe and responsible use and behaviour: we will make it clear that individuals, including children and young people themselves, need to take responsibility for their own online behaviour; and
3. Creating a safer online environment: we will work together to make sure that children are less likely to come across or get access to things online that are not suitable for them.

At Abernethy and Deshar Primary Schools we are committed to meet these aims and to ensure all partners are involved in developing and implementing an understanding of the aims and the actions needed to be taken.

In the following we will present what we aim to do at Abernethy and Deshar Primary Schools to ensure the three aims are being met.

We regularly have assemblies where online safety is highlighted and addressed. These assemblies consist of general discussions around internet safety but also share videos from [Ineque Safeguarding Group](#), their '[Digital Safeguarding in 60](#)' videos and [Common Sense Education](#) and from their [YouTube channel](#). The videos are a good starting point for discussions and contribute to increasing pupils' knowledge and understanding of online safety and its importance. We are also using the resource '[Think You Know resource - Hector's world](#)' in assemblies and to set additional tasks to classes.

Abernethy and Deshar Primary Schools are providing lessons in relation to online safety and cyber resilience.

Pupils have furthermore been using Google's [INTERLAND](#) program where they are learning about internet safety through 'Be internet legends'

As mentioned earlier, Abernethy and Deshar Primary Schools are on a Rights Respecting School journey and we often set tasks linked to the [Children's Rights](#). As part of these tasks, internet safety and cyber resilience are often linked. Here is an example of what a task around discrimination might look like, where teachers and pupils were asked to reflect upon discrimination online as well as offline.

[Right of the month - February - Non-discrimination](#)

At Abernethy and Deshar Primary Schools we are committed to ensure parents/carers have access to information and the latest guidelines in terms of online safety and keeping their children safe while online. We therefore have a tab on our website dedicated solely to online safety and cyber resilience. On this site parents/carers can find guidelines, videos, policies and general information about online safety. [Webpage](#)

Furthermore, we encourage parents/carers to visit the [Highland Digital Hub](#) where information about online safety is readily available and where parents/carers can access the *National Parent Forum of Scotland's* Online safety information.

All staff in the school are updated with the latest information regarding internet safety through our online sharing platform as well as through collegiate sessions, where online safety is discussed and focussed lessons are agreed upon.

Internet safety is also a feature in our [Positive Relationship Model](#) where we state how the school will respond to E-Safety or Cyber-Bullying incidents in accordance with the Highland Council's '[Highland Schools' Digital Citizenship/E-Safety Policy](#)' that applies for all schools in the Highland Council.

As a school we are following the '[Highland Schools' Digital Citizenship/E-Safety Policy](#)'

As part of the Chromebook roll-out, which began in 2017, we have asked pupils and parents to engage with and sign our [chromebook agreement](#) before taking them home as one-to-one devices for our P6 and P7 pupils.

We would like to thank all of our partners for participating in the ongoing creation and development of our internet safety policy. We all have to work together to ensure our goals are met.

Abernethy and Deshar Primary Schools 2022