



Byfleet Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs C Meyrick



Monday 21st March 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

RE: Online Safety at Home

Over the past few months we have tried to support some Byfleet families around Online Safety as we continuously strive towards keeping our children safe both on and off line. Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However, we have become aware that some children may be watching programmes or playing video games which have ratings of 12, 15 or 18. We would therefore like to share some additional information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safe.

Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online:

- **Parental controls:** Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally foolproof so this shouldn't replace the support and guidance you give your child to help keep them safer. For more information and step by step instructions on setting up parental controls, visit [Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides - Internet Matters](#)
- **Supervise their online activity:** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as the living room or kitchen, where an adult is able to supervise. Primary-age children should not access the internet in private spaces alone, such as in a bedroom or bathroom.
- **Explore together and chat little and often:** Ask your child to show you their favourite apps, games and sites and encourage them to teach you how to use these. Ask them if anything ever worries them online. Make sure they know they won't be in trouble and can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried, sad or scared.
- **Make sure they know where to go for support:** Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. For a breakdown of report services, visit: [Report online issues to protect your child | Internet Matters](#)

Online Gaming:

- Online games are social activities, and most have features that allow children to chat with others whilst they play. For information about the positives of gaming, the risks of in-game chat and measures you can take to help protect them, read this guide and watch the short video: [In-game chat: what parents and carers need to know](#)

- The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) rating system can be a useful tool to help you decide what online games are appropriate for your child. For more information on the PEGI system and other factors to consider before deciding what's suitable, read: [Gaming - what's appropriate for your child?](#)
- If your child is gaming, you may have some questions about how to keep them safer. If so, check out -[Gaming: what parents and carers need to know](#). . For a guide on the apps, sites and games your child might enjoy, visit: [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

Do you need more information or support?

Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP) whose aim is to protect children and young people from sexual abuse online. For more information, advice and guidance, visit their [Parents homepage](#) and download their [home-activity-worksheets](#) for fun, online safety activities to do with your family.

If you have any questions, or would like further information please contact either Mrs Meyrick (Headteacher) or Mrs Sharkey-Yun (Inclusion Lead) via the school office.

Kind Regards,

Byfleet Primary School Safeguarding Team