



# Northbourne CE (A) Primary School

Cockcroft Road  
Didcot  
Oxfordshire OX11 8LJ

Headteacher: Mr. P. Shaughnessy

Phone: (01235) 817744

[office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3852@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk)  
[www.northbourne.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.northbourne.oxon.sch.uk)

## Online Safety

Tuesday was Safer Internet Day 2021 – and with the amount of time children are having to spend on screens and devices at the moment, it seems a particularly pertinent moment to think again about some key messages around keeping your children safe online.

### Messages from school

In school, we teach children the acronym **SMART** to help children understand what to do to help themselves stay safe online. We also display our acceptable internet use agreements in each of our classrooms, and refer to these whenever children are working online. Copies of these are included on our school website should these be helpful to discuss with your children:

**IT'S TIME TO GET SMART**

Safe	Meet	Accepting	Reliable	Tell
Remember not to give out personal information when you're chatting online or posting online. This includes your email address, phone number, password and location.	Not everyone is who they say that they are, people you meet online are still strangers. If someone asks you to meet them be sure to tell your parents, carer or teacher. Do not agree to meet someone who has been in touch with you online without a parent or carer present.	Accepting emails or messages from people you don't know can be unsafe. They may contain viruses or horrible messages.	Not everything you see online is true. Information is not always accurate and people may sometimes lie about who they are. If you're not sure about something you've seen check it out on other websites and books, or ask a trusted adult.	Always tell a parent, carer or teacher if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried.

<https://northbourne.oxon.sch.uk/curriculum/personal-development/online-safety/>.

### Internet safety at home

The NSPCC outline their Top Tips for what you can do at home to help your child develop into a safe internet user. These are:

#### 1. Set rules and agree boundaries as a family

- Set boundaries for how long your child can spend online and what they can do.
- Agree this as a family so that access to devices can be shared fairly.
- Remember there are tools that can help you manage and monitor access and use across all devices.

#### 2. Talk about online safety and get involved

- Have conversations about online safety little-and-often, and build it into other conversations.
- Ask questions about what they do online, such as what sites they visit and who they talk to.
- Make the use of the internet a family activity.
- Remember to share these rules with babysitters, childminders and other family members.
- Talk to other parents about internet use, such as what they do and don't allow.

### 3. Know who they are talking to

- Tell your child that strangers can pop up anywhere online: email, instant messenger, social networking sites or online games;
- Your child may feel they know someone well, even if they've only played a game with them online. So remember to talk to them about what they share with people they've only met online;
- Discuss boundaries and say you'd like to be friends on social networks, at least initially;
- Understand the games they play;
- Ensure your child knows what to do if someone they don't know contacts them – for example, ask you for advice;
- Show your child how to report abuse and how to block people on the websites they use.

### 4. Check content is age-appropriate

- Check age ratings of games, online movies and websites.

### 5. Use parental and privacy controls

- Control the privacy settings on social media and websites.
- Adjust parental controls to suit your child's age and maturity.
- Make sure you always logout of your online accounts.

Our website includes a template for a Family Internet Use agreement and some conversation prompts which might help with some of these things: <https://northbourne.oxon.sch.uk/curriculum/personal-development/online-safety/>

### Further resources and help

There are a huge number of websites providing advice, guidance and support about how to go about supporting your children to use the internet safely. Those which staff find most helpful and which are well worth a look include:

<a href="https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting">https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting</a>	<a href="https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/">https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/</a>
<a href="https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/">https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/</a>	<a href="https://www.net-aware.org.uk/">https://www.net-aware.org.uk/</a>
<a href="https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/">https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/</a>	

### Reporting any problems

As with any problems they might face and any mistakes they make, it is really important children understand they can always talk to someone at home or at school if things go wrong with their internet use. This will allow any more worrying issues to be followed up appropriately. We teach children that anything online which worries them can be reported to CEOP, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection unit of the National Crime Agency. Many websites include a CEOP button which children can use should they have concerns. More information is available on their website: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

As well as allowing users to be blocked, social media sites have their own reporting functions which can be used for any problems and issues; when you allow your children to sign up for social media accounts, please spend some time showing them how to do this so they are aware of how to tackle any issues.

We know the online world can be addictive – it can be hard for all of us, including children, to put down our devices for an evening. The internet is a fantastic tool which can help connect and inform people – but is no replacement for time being active. When setting boundaries for internet use, consider how to balance screen-time with more active activities.

The speed at which the internet develops and changes makes it challenging for all of us to keep up with emerging apps and games which children use. We remain committed to working in partnership with you at home to ensure the messages we teach children in school are shared with you to reinforce at home.