

17th January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Online Safety

Following recent press regarding the game Fortnite, please find attached a leaflet for parents about the game **Fortnite: Battle Royale**, which is incredibly popular with young people at the moment. The leaflet is designed to be positive and informative, rather than scaring parents. However, we would urge parents to be vigilant at all times and report any concerns. It is so important that you know what your child is doing online at all times and who they are talking to.

Talking to your child – openly, and regularly – is the best way to help keep them safe online.

Below is some advice from the NSPCC about staying safe online

Explore sites and apps together

- Talk about what might be OK for children of different ages. Ask your child what sites or apps they like. Write a list, and look at them together.
- Be positive about what you see, but also be open about concerns you have: "I think this site's really good" or "I'm a little worried about things I've seen here".
- Talk to your child about what you think is appropriate – but also involve them in the conversation. Ask what they think is OK for children of different ages – they'll feel involved in the decision-making.
- Be aware that your child might talk about friends who use apps or visit sites that you've decided aren't suitable. Be ready to discuss your reasons, but recognise that they may not agree with you. Listen carefully for the reasons why.
- Go through a final list of sites you both agree are OK, and work out when you'll next discuss it.

Ask about things they might see online which make them feel uncomfortable

Talk about things they, or their friends, have seen that made them feel uncomfortable:

- Be specific. What exactly made them feel uncomfortable and why? Is it people or animals being hurt? Nasty comments about others?
- Link these to things in the real world, and explain that you're always here to protect and help them online and off.
- Reassure your child that they can always talk to you about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Show them how to report or block on the sites and apps they use. Use [Net Aware](#) to find out how.
- Tell them you'll help them to report anything upsetting they've seen, or to deal with [online bullying](#).

Talk about how they can stay safe on social networks

Ask your child if they know:

- where reporting functions are
- how to block someone
- how to keep information private.

You may need to show them how to do these things so you could use [Net Aware](#) to help you.

Reassure them that you won't overreact – you're just looking out for them

- Explain that you understand the internet is a great place to be and that you're just looking out for them. Tell them they should speak up and not keep secrets if something is worrying them.
- Reassure them that you're interested in all aspects of their life. Say that you'd like to talk about stuff they've seen online, sites and apps they visit, and that you'll share the things you've seen too. Recognise that they'll be using the internet to research homework, for example.

Be Share Aware: talk about what's OK, and not OK, to share online

- Talk to your child about what 'personal information' is - such as email address, full name, phone number, address and school name - and why it's important.
- Explain simple ways to protect privacy. For example, avoiding usernames like birthdates or locations that give away too much information.
- Discuss images and photos, and what might be appropriate. Help your child understand how photographs can give people a sense of your personality, and that sharing the wrong kind of image can give the wrong impression.
- Explain that it isn't easy to identify someone online. People aren't always who they say they are, so don't share personal information. If it's someone who genuinely knows your child, they shouldn't need to ask for personal information online.
- Tell your child that if they're in any doubt they should talk to you first.

There are more top tips available at www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety

If you wish to talk to someone about online safety whether you want to set up parental controls, adjust privacy settings or get advice on social networks, experts from the free O2 & NSPCC helpline are there to help and their number is [0808 800 5002](tel:08088005002)

I hope you find the information useful.

Kind regards,

Miss Kerry Mills
Principal