



ST CHRISTOPHER'S  
PENANG

## E-Safety information for parents/carers

Dear Parents/Guardians,

E-Safety is an important part of keeping children safe online. We have security measures in place in school, which are constantly monitored, to help safeguard pupils from any potential dangers. E-Safety is taught to all pupils explaining and demonstrating how to stay safe and behave appropriately online and we have recently had a workshop with all of Y5-6 in order to highlight the importance of this.

We can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you to ensure the e-Safety message is consistent. Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep safe and behave appropriately online. The widespread availability and use of social networking application bring opportunities to understand, engage and communicate with audiences in new ways. It is important that we are able to use these technologies and services effectively and flexibly. You may find you children asking to engage with technology that you have no knowledge or experience of.

Children are accessing a greater amount of content online, than we were ever exposed to in our childhood. Remember that services like Facebook and YouTube have a minimum age limit of 13 (we have included what some of the most used sites policies are in the appendix). They do this for a reason. If you choose to allow your children to have these accounts then you will want to discuss with them the boundaries you expect. We have spoken to them in school about sharing their password with you, in order to keep them safe. If not, explain to them why not.

You will find children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to unwanted or unpleasant content or comments online and there are steps you can take at home to minimise this risk.

### **What can parents/carers do?**

#### **Ground Rules**

- Discuss as a family how the internet will be used in your house. Consider what should be kept private online (personal information, photos etc.) and decide rules for making and meeting online friends. Make sure you know what your child is doing online much like you would offline.

#### **Online Safety**

- Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to block unsuitable content or contact
- Remember that parental control tools are not always 100% effective and sometimes, unsuitable content can get past them, so don't rely on them alone to protect your child.

#### **Location**

- Think about locating your computer in a supervised family area. Always supervise the use of webcams in an application, which allows voice or video chat. Consider your child's use of other devices that allow internet access such as Mobile Phones and Games Consoles.



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### **Dialogue**

- Talk to your child and ask them to show or even teach you how they use the internet, learn which websites or tools they like to use and why. Learning together can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour with your child.
- Always ensure your child knows how to block or report people online who send nasty or inappropriate messages or content. Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply.
- Make sure your child knows to tell an adult they trust if they see something online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.
- It's essential to be realistic - banning the internet or technology will not work and it often makes a child less likely to report a problem. Education around safe use is essential.

### **We are teaching children to follow these Golden Rules!**

1. Use a nickname, not your real name when online.
2. Keep your personal information safe, share with only people you know.
3. Use websites that are suitable for your age and remember that you are still talking to strangers.
4. Be nice to others online, in the way you would expect other people to be nice to you.
5. Tell an adult if you see or hear something that you think is not right.

### **Websites for more information:**

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) – Visit the “Parent/Carer” Section and use the “Click CEOP” button to seek advice

[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com) – Visit the ‘Know It All’ Section for an interactive guide about online safety

[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org) – Free up-to-date Security advice, age specific advice

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/0/> - This is an archived site from the BBC

<https://www.common sense media.org/> - Excellent advice about Internet Safety



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## Appendix

### Facebook

Facebook is targeted at older teenagers and adults. They have a “**No under 13**” registration policy and recommend parental guidance for 13 to 16 year olds. The following are extracts from Facebook’s privacy policy:

*“Facebook requires everyone to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account (in some jurisdictions, this age limit may be higher). Creating an account with false info is a violation of our terms. This includes accounts registered on the behalf of someone under 13.*

*If your underage child created an account on Facebook, you can show them how to account. If you'd like to report an account belonging to someone under 13, please [fill out this form](#). Note that we'll promptly delete the account of any child under the age of 13 that's reported to us through this form.”*

### MSN

MSN has no age check on many of its services. When there is an age check, it states that it will block users under the age of 13 from providing personal information, although many primary aged children use its instant messaging/chat function. The following are extracts from the MSN privacy policy:

*“Many Microsoft sites and services are intended for general audiences and do not knowingly collect any personal information from children. When a Microsoft site does collect age information, and users identify themselves as under 13, the site will either block such users from providing personal information, or will seek to obtain consent from parents for the collection, use and sharing of their children's personal information. We will not knowingly ask children under the age of 13 to provide more information than is reasonably necessary to provide our services.*

*Please note that if you grant consent for your child to use Microsoft services, this will include such general audience communication services as e-mail, instant messaging, and online groups, and your child will be able to communicate with, and disclose personal information to, other users of all ages. Parents can change or revoke the consent choices previously made, and review, edit or request the deletion of their children's personal information. For example, on MSN and Windows Live, parents can visit Account Services, and click on “Permission for kids.” If we change this privacy statement in a way that expands the collection, use or disclosure of children's personal information to which a parent has previously consented, the parent will be notified and we will be required to obtain the parent's additional consent.”*

### Skype

Skype says it does not encourage users under 13; however there are no restrictions in place that stop children from opening an account. The following are extracts from the Skype privacy policy:

*“Skype's websites and software clients are not intended for or designed to attract users under the age of 13. We encourage parents to be involved in the online activities of their children to ensure that no information is collected from a child without parental permission”*



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### Twitter

Twitter says it that is not designed for children under 13, however there are no restrictions in place to stop them opening an account. They will have to enter their birth date, but this is to stop direct advertising to minors. The following is an extract from Twitter's privacy policy:

*"Our Services are not directed to persons under 13. If you become aware that your child has provided us with personal information without your consent, please contact us at [privacy@twitter.com](mailto:privacy@twitter.com). We do not knowingly collect personal information from children under 13. If we become aware that a child under 13 has provided us with personal information, we take steps to remove such information and terminate the child's account."*

### WeChat

Wechat is a messaging facility via smart phones. The users can send instant messages, photos and voice messages. It also has a feature where the user is able to connect with people they don't know in their local area. Wechat states that it is **not for users under the age of 13**. The following is an extract from WeChat's privacy policy:

*"If you are under the age of 13, you must not use our services. If you are between the ages of 13 and 18 (or the relevant age in your jurisdiction where you are considered a minor), your parent or guardian must agree to these Terms (both for themselves and on your behalf) before you can use our services."*

### WhatsApp

WhatsApp is a messaging facility via smart phones. The users can send instant messages, photos and voice messages. WhatsApp states that it is **not for users under the age of 16**. The following is an extract from WeChat's privacy policy:

*"You affirm that you are either more than 16 years of age, or an emancipated minor, or possess legal parental or guardian consent, and are fully able and competent to enter into the terms, conditions, obligations, affirmations, representations, and warranties set forth in these Terms of Service, and to abide by and comply with these Terms of Service. In any case, you affirm that you are at least 16 years old as the WhatsApp Service is not intended for children under 16. If you are under 16 years of age, you are not permitted to use the WhatsApp Service."*