

ABBEY ACADEMIES TRUST
Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore



Friday 5th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Safer Internet Day 2021 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 9th February with the slogan ***'Together for a better internet'*** and we will be taking part.

Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, the celebration sees hundreds of organisations get involved and join a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. The day offers the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community.

We will share Collective Worship on Seesaw for EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 to launch this year's theme of ***'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world.'*** To further develop their understanding, the E-Safety coordinators across Abbey Academies Trust have planned and recorded lessons for each Key Stage to explore this theme in more detail.

The campaign focuses on how we can decide what to trust online, supporting young people to question, challenge and change the online world for the better. It will explore how influence, persuasion and manipulation can impact young people's decisions, opinions and what they share online.

Safer Internet Day calls upon young people, parents, carers, teachers and the wider community to join together to help create a better internet. Last year it reached 49% of young people and 26% of parents in the UK.

Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has reported over the last 12 months that they have seen an increase in the number of schools reporting that students, while at home, have accessed content which is not always appropriate, some of which has been quite scary or upsetting. While there is no perfect way to eliminate this risk, they feel that there are things parents and carers can do to support their children online, reduce the risk or manage it after the fact. Please find attached with this letter top tips and resources that you as parents and carers can follow.

Now more than ever during these Covid-19 times, it is important that we teach children to stay safe online. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, carer, aunt, uncle or older sibling, we can all play a role in empowering children to enjoy their time online safely.

Thank you for continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss A Worrall, Miss G Huggins, Miss J Bergmann and Mr P Bellamy
(E-Safety Co-ordinators)

Practical steps that parents and carers can follow to keep their children safe online

<p>Contact their Internet Service Provider (ISP)</p> <p>Companies that provide broadband such as BT, Sky and Virgin, offer free protection for parents and carers. They can filter your internet connection directly, without having to install anything.</p> <p>A guide on how to use this can be found here: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/</p>	<p>YouTube</p> <p>YouTube is a fantastic resource, especially when home schooling, but not all the content is appropriate for children and not all YouTube channels are made for young audiences. YouTube has an app just for children – YouTube Kids – but many people don't realise that the main YouTube app has a restricted mode.</p> <p>Check out more about how it works here: https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/</p>
<p>Game Consoles</p> <p>Games consoles have features that can limit what games they can play based on the age ratings and can even turn off certain features to allow gaming to be a little safer.</p> <p>To learn more about these features visit https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/</p>	<p>Game Ratings</p> <p>Games are also rated based on the content, not how difficult they are. 18 rated games can have very graphic violence, adult language and themes, sexual content and horror elements.</p> <p>Learn a bit more about appropriate games by visiting https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/ or visit this site for more about game ratings https://parentzone.org.uk/article/pegi-games-ratings-explained</p>
<p>Think U Know</p> <p>It's important to remember that no filters or controls are 100% effective so make sure your child knows that they can, and should, talk to someone if they see or hear anything upsetting online so we can offer them some reassurance.</p> <p>This information from Thinkuknow might be useful:</p> <p>https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/im-worried-my-primary-aged-child-might-see-something-inappropriate-online/</p>	<p>YouTube Parent and Carer Workshop with Dan Hawbrook</p> <p>Dan Hawbrook from Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has recorded his parent and carer workshop on Youtube.</p> <p>This can be accessed on the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrWJte5NAzw&t=5s</p> <p>Please note this is not suitable for children to watch.</p>