



Brookhurst Primary School

Why and How we teach Online Safety

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Mrs T Henderson	24-02-2017	30-03-2021
Ms F Hughes	Not Yet	Not Yet
Mrs R Jones	11-07-2017	03-01-2020
Mrs G Lindsay	Not Yet	Not Yet
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1. What is online safety

Online safety, often referred to as 'internet safety', 'e-safety' or 'web safety', is usually defined as the safe and responsible use of computing technologies. This includes a range of different technologies and the use of the internet and encompasses the use of communication technologies using electronic media (e.g. text messages, gaming devices, email etc).

In practice, online safety is as much about one's behaviour as it is about one's electronic security. Online safety in this context is categorised into three potential areas of risk:

- **Content:** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material
- **Contact:** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users
- **Conduct:** personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm.

2. Why we teach online safety at Brookhurst Primary School

As educators we have an obligation to keeping our children and young people safe from harm online. But since 2012 OFSTED added online safety to their school inspection requirements and these requirements extended way beyond the classroom, encompassing the "whole school community" within the schools expected scope of delivery. Therefore our obligation is not only to children and young people, but to parents, carers, governors and all school staff, not just those involved in the direct education of pupils.

Our online safety aims:

- To enable children and young people to be responsible for their use of the Internet.
- To help children and young people develop internet skills and use information they find online wisely and sensibly.
- To ensure we develop respectful and considerate internet users.
- To help children and young people avoid embarrassment or humiliation when online.
- To keep children and young people safe from predatory adults.
- To help children and young people avoid physical danger.
- To educate children and young people about the dangers of becoming victims of crimes such as identity theft and fraud.
- To stop children and young people developing 'unhealthy' behaviours such as obsessive use of the internet or digital games.

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Children and young people are often capable of using safe strategies, but as teachers we need to be sure that children know what to do to STAY SAFE ONLINE.

Many young people have the technical skills to deal with online safety but they sometimes lack the wisdom to know when there is danger or how to deal with difficult situations if/when they arise.

Adults: teachers, parents and carers, are sometimes over-cautious or over-protective in their responses to these dangers. The Byron review - *Safer Children in a Digital World* (2007) highlights the need to help children and young people tackle these issues rather than keep them protected from them and therefore prevent them learning how to deal with issues that arise.

In teaching online safety we will endeavour to strike a balance between encouraging the safe use of computing technologies and making children fearful of potential consequences. The aim is not to discourage use of these technologies BUT to give children the experience, skills and knowledge to use it sensibly and safely. The Internet is a powerful and exciting tool and, used with safety guidelines in place, provides many benefits to children and young people.

*We also have an obligation to supporting children, young people, parents and carers so that they know **where** to turn to get support and **who** to report damaging behaviours which have been experienced online.*

3. What should be taught and how?

The teaching of online safety should focus on the following 3 areas:

- **Content:** educating our children and young people about how to deal with illegal, inappropriate or harmful materials, if they come face-to-face with these online.
- **Contact:** enabling our learners to know how to avoid the dangers of harmful online interaction with other users and the potential harms this may cause.
- **Conduct:** ensuring our children and young people are aware of their personal online behaviour and the consequences of not being a respectful internet user.

Online safety covers a broad range of aspects including: **physical safety**, legal aspects such as **copyright** and **technical issues such as filtering**. Some aspects of e-Safety are built into our current teaching practice with all teachers responsible for covering the subjects on a regular basis. Most of this teaching will probably be during computing teaching time.

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Staff are encouraged to look for cross-curricular links when covering online safety to strengthen children and young people's understanding of the subject through PSHE, citizenship, literacy and other subjects.

At Brookhurst our teaching of online safety has always been progressive. Young children receive much more supervision and guidance and more protection than older children when using the internet. However, as children become more independent learners, teachers are encouraged to trust children with using the internet in a more independent nature and with increasing regularity. **CHILDREN IN KS2 MUST BE TAUGHT ABOUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITY** - and with it the freedom to explore, improving knowledge and skills as children progress up through the school.

At the heart of our Internet Safety teaching is the **Acceptable Use Policy for the Internet**. We have 3 such policies which reflect our progressive teaching of online safety. The Acceptable Users Policy for Foundation, KS1 and KS2 are sent to parents/carers annually and parents return signed slips to show that this has been read, understood and discussed with their children/young people.

Rules for using the internet safely are displayed in the hub, on the laptop trolley and on the netbook trolley and in a number of other places where there is an internet connection. This outlines safe and responsible behaviour online and should be reinforced through many subjects and on a frequent basis, particularly on occasions when pupils use the Internet.

Many safety issues in schools rely on a partnership between parents/carers and teachers. As a school Brookhurst wants to work with parents and carers to help them to help their children to stay safe at home as well as at school. Links to additional information are provided on the school web-site. Links for children are provided via the learning platform. The development of the Warwickshire Learning Platform currently being implemented across the county provides opportunities to teach online safety because they includes safe social networking internal to the school. These technologies allow schools to enhance the teaching of safe behaviours when using wikis, blogs and discussion forums.

4. How are we doing at Brookhurst?

A good way to see how our school fairs against the OFSTED requirements is to ask ourselves these 5 questions:

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1. How do you ensure that all staff receive appropriate online safety training that is relevant and regularly up to date?
2. What mechanisms does the school have in place to support pupils and staff facing online safety issues?
3. How does the school educate and support parents and whole school community with online safety?
4. Does the school have e-safety policies and acceptable use policies in place? How does the school know that they are clear and understood and respected by all?
5. Describe how your school educates children and young people to build knowledge, skills and capability when it comes to online safety? How do you assess its effectiveness?

We are currently in the process of reviewing some of the 5 above measures for assessing our school's e-safety practice. This will help us to ensure that it meets the needs of our learners.