WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL & OAK TREE FOUNDATION UNIT

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Online Safety Newsletter – July 2024 - Being Unkind Online

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face with each other.

Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face. How they act online should be how they behave on the school playground when they are following school rules. Here are some examples of what being unkind looks like online:
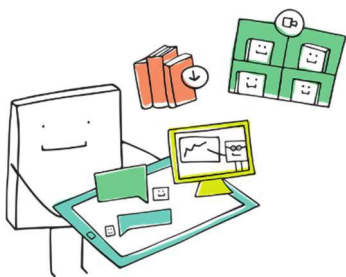
- Sending nasty or hurtful messages
- Leaving unkind comments
- Sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission
- Excluding somebody on purpose
- Impersonating somebody with a fake account
- Telling/sharing lies

The above might happen whilst your child is gaming online or whilst using social media or messaging apps for example.

What should I do if my child is being bullied online?

Ensure that your child understands that if they receive unkind messages or see something that worries them, they should not reply or engage in conversation with the perpetrator. Instead, they should tell a trusted adult. You can use the tools within an app to report any offensive or hurtful content as well as block people so they cannot contact them again in the future.

Starting a conversation with your child

BBC Own It have curated a selection of videos and quizzes with ideas and advice to help make the web a kinder place. You could use these to help you start a conversation with your child.

https://www.bbc.com/ownit/curations/being-kind-online

Further information

- https://bulliesout.com/need-support/be-kind-online/
- https://bekindonline.com/category/cyber-safety-tips/

Summertime Screen Time

The Ineqe Safeguarding Group have published information on their website to help you manage your child's screentime during the summer break. Their website includes top tips for managing screen time, activities and guides to popular apps:

https://ineqe.com/2024/06/20/summertime-screen-time-2024/

Helping your child transition to secondary school

Is your child moving to secondary school in September? Internet Matters have published lots of useful advice and resources to help you during this transition, including discussing if your child is ready for a smartphone and explaining the challenges they may face in secondary school:

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/moving-to-secondary-school-online-safety-guide/

Accessibility features

There are many accessibility features available on iPhone and Android phones to support those with vision, speech and cognitive needs for example. You can find out more here:

iPhone: https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/iphone/iph3e2e4367/ios

Android: https://support.google.com/accessibility/android/answer/6006564?hl=en-GB