

St. John's CEVA Primary School

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Online Safety During the Covid-19 lockdown 21st April 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

During these difficult and unprecedented times we at St John's recognise that many children are likely to spend a large amount of time online. Therefore we would like to remind all families of the potential risks associated with online use and highlight what can be done to limit harmful use. As parents we need to be mindful of the risks our children may encounter and be extra vigilant, monitoring their use more carefully.

<http://aacoss.org/parents/>

The above web link will give you access to The Association of Adult and Child Online Safety Specialists which provides excellent, detailed advice for parents and carers regarding children's online activities during the pandemic. Also there are many other online links to organizations which provide further support, help and guidance in regards to online matters. These include aspects on gaming, social media, who to report to, guidance on blocking and using privacy settings along with many more useful tips and suggestions. Well worth a look.

Key aspects to consider are:

- Harmful content

Children may have access to a variety of video sites such as YouTube which often have inappropriate language and images. Furthermore, adverts or "pop ups" invite the user to join inappropriate sites or make purchases.

Also consider the games being played on gaming consoles. Check out the PEGI rating to ensure the games do not have harmful content.

- Cyberbullying

Children maybe accessing video phoning such as WhatsApp, Skype, Face Time, Zoom or other digital video connection. Be aware of who they are calling and monitor how they are



Linguamarque
Gold



communicating with others. Are they being a positive digital citizen or are others being unkind. Block unwanted callers.

Gaming online can also lead to negative behaviour especially where headphones and verbal communications are made.

- Social Networking

Although the children at St John's are underage to use social media (most apps have a minimum age of 13) it has become quite a trend during these difficult times to use such sites as Tik Tok to make fun, creative videos. However, be aware that published videos, photos and comments can be available to everyone around the world. Ensure names and addresses are kept private, do background images reveal whereabouts, is clothing appropriate and are camera angles and behaviour appropriate?

Safeguarding and Child Protection Email address

In regards to issues of cyberbullying, especially with more of the children staying in contact with friends online, we at St John's feel it is essential that all children consider their conduct whilst online. Indeed we know that many parents are being extra vigilant and monitoring their own children's behaviour very carefully. However we also recognise that occasional negative and inappropriate online behaviour has been reported. St John's takes all aspects of cyberbullying seriously and would ask that all future incidents are passed on and recorded. A new safeguarding and child protection email service will be set up where all families at St John's CEVA Primary School can post details of any cyberbullying incidents and concerns. The school will not be able to respond to each posted concern individually but be assured that all the information will be gathered and collated so that a better understanding of all the events can be pieced together to create a fuller picture. At this point follow up phone calls may well be needed to gain a better understanding of the events, so that all cyberbullying issues can be dealt with appropriately. We appreciate all your support in this matter.

Safeguarding Email address: safeguarding@st-johns.suffolk.sch.uk

Take care and be safe. Yours sincerely, Mr B. Dunne