

ROXETH PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Headteacher: Mrs C. Tobin

10th December 2015

Dear Parent/Carer in Year 6

RE: E Safety

We recognise that technology plays an important part in all our lives. The internet has changed all of our lives, particularly our children's. At Roxeth Primary School, we strongly encourage sensible use of digital and online technologies. They open up huge possibilities for learning for all of our children; children can use the internet to research new information, as well as connecting to children they know online or via mobile phones. For parents and carers, this opens up a whole new world of things to be aware of, in particular the need to ensure your child's safe and responsible use of technology.

However, we along with many other schools, have a number of growing concerns. These concerns include – and it is not an exhaustive list:

- The unsafe disclosure of personal information in which pupils can provide potentially dangerous or damaging personal information without a full understanding that what is posted in social media communities is public, potentially permanent and accessible to many more than the user intends
- Addiction, whereby the pupil spends an excessive amount of time online, to the detriment of that pupil's education, well-being and health
- Playing games that are not age appropriate
- Use of social media sites that are not age appropriate
- Cyber-bullying – involving the sending or posting of harmful and sometimes malicious material online

The best approach is, we feel, a comprehensive one with on-going education in online safety and responsible use with monitoring not just by one or two staff but by all who are responsible for your son or daughter's welfare, very much including parents, with whom we wish to work in close partnership.

Every year, the e-safety co-ordinator Mrs Davies and class teachers work together with the children to teach them about being safe online. This year we have found again that many children are using sites which are not suitable for them-in many cases using very inappropriate language; therefore we are writing to ask you to talk to your children about how they can keep safe and behave appropriately online at home. Social networking can be a lot of fun, but can carry risks, especially for children and young people. Many social networking sites have age restrictions

(**usually 13 years**) and it is important for parents to understand the site's Terms and Conditions of Use. You don't pick and choose which rules you obey in the real world, don't do it online either.

Sites with age restrictions (usually 13)

Twitter

Facebook

Instagram

Pinterest

Tumblr

Reddit

Snapchat

YouTube-only with parents' permission at 13 otherwise 18

WhatsApp-age restriction is 16

For more information do look at our school website where there are useful links to information for parents about keeping safe on line:

http://www.roxethschoolharrow.org/r_t_l_e.htm

You can also ask to speak to Mrs Davies our IT lead here in school who has lots of good advice for parents and see the attached sheet for more information.

We can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work together to ensure the E-Safety message is consistent.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C. Tobin
Headteacher

BT and Unicef UK have come together to create The Right Click: Internet Safety Matters, an initiative aimed at empowering children to use the internet positively while staying safe and equipping parents with the tools to keep their children protected online.

We are hosting this workshop at Roxeth on **Thursday 28th January**-you will receive and invitation to attend after the holiday-keep the date!

Keeping Your Child Safe on Line

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

Locate your computer/tablets/phone, in a supervised family area. Always supervise the use of webcams and applications which allow voice or video chat. Consider your child's use of other devices that allow internet access such as mobile phones and games consoles.

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.

Websites for more information:

www.childnet.com – Visit the 'Know It All' Section for an interactive guide about online safety

www.getsafeonline.org – Free up-to-date Security advice

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe>

http://www.roxethschoolharrow.org/r_t_l_e.htm