



Online Safety at home and in School

At LCS we love using technology to get creative and learn new things. The internet and digital devices are wonderful resources, but come with risks. We wanted to take this opportunity to give a brief overview of what we do as a school to grow the children in becoming responsible, respectful, resilient digital citizens and to suggest ways in which you can help with that at home.

At School

As well as teaching Online Safety lessons, and holding specific assemblies - often led by the children - we take opportunities across the whole of the curriculum to teach and celebrate good digital citizenship. We model and encourage the outworking of the children's acceptable user policies (found on the parent portal) in all lessons. We remind the children regularly about the different ways to report things online that worry them. Online Safety coverage is wide and detailed, but some areas covered through the school are online relationships, managing online information, online bullying, privacy and security and self image and identity.



At Home

As children in Year 5 and 6 move towards secondary school and personal device ownership, many helpful things can be done at home. You could show your child a social network you use, who you are friends with on it, why you post what you do, why you don't share certain things, and explain to them your privacy settings. You may also want to set certain time boundaries, or decide where a personal device is left at night time or check age ratings of apps on your child's device.



A few tips that may be helpful in preparation for secondary school

- Use an avatar and a cyber nickname on social networks or online games
- Be careful not to share your geolocation or daily routines whilst within an app
- Think about how to chat with friends and make new ones online before you type or click - e.g. what info can be shared with whom, tone of voice, emojis, positive digital footprints
- Share appropriate images of yourself or others respectfully, carefully and with permission
- Decide when you'll 'put the device down' at the end of a day
- Check age ratings of apps/games/films before downloading them and using them
- Know who is storing your data, and make sure you only give consent to companies you trust

A few *specific* resources to help in preparation for secondary school

- Internetmatters.org and the NSPCC website - for social networking tips
- BBC Own it - for lots of things; addiction, social media anxiety etc. They also have what looks to be a really helpful app for children to put on their own devices (due to launch soon)

Further Support

More information can be found on our website and on the parent portal, including links to useful websites, and the Acceptable User Policy the children adhere to at LCS. Do look out for the 'Digital Tip' every week too, found in the Weekly Newsletter. If you would like any further help and advice at all, please do get in touch with our Safeguarding Lead, Katie Vivyan, or our Computing lead Mr Gamblen.