

EMMER GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher - Mrs. T. Crossman

28th June 2019

Dear Parents

E-Safety is an important aspect of keeping children safe at our school. We have security measures in place, which are monitored internally, to help safeguard our pupils from unsuitable material. We can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you to ensure the e-Safety message is consistent. Your help is needed to keep your child informed about how to stay safe and behave appropriately online.

Recently we have heard of incidences outside school hours where children have been group messaging each other and that the content of the messages is sometimes inappropriate or upsetting. It is also evident that friendship groups are fragile because of comments on WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat, and other social networks. **Please be aware that most of these services have a minimum age of 16.** We as a school have no ability or authority to police how pupils use their personal mobile phone (or other personal internet-connected devices), however we urge you to support our work in encouraging and monitoring e-safety and responsible online behaviour when your child is at home, or out with their friends.

Below are a number of steps which can be taken at home to help safeguard your children.

- Check levels of Parental Controls on child devices, and install security measures where possible (e.g. blocking application installs without parental approval, or setting time limits on internet access).
- Understand how your child uses their phone, and the apps that they have installed. Have open discussions regarding use and protocols of social networks. We do understand the peer pressure involved, but please consider whether you even allow your child access to these networks, considering in many cases that this is against the network terms and conditions. This also sets a precedent for 'breaking the rules' regarding the age limit that your child is probably already aware of.
- Supervising children's use of computers, phones, games consoles and tablets that have Internet access, and restricting their use late at night. Consider setting rules in your household that include:
 - The monitoring you will perform on their internet, app, gaming and social media usage
 - The limits on time allowed on these sites that may occur if their usage interferes with family time or external social activities.
- Recognise that despite our best intentions and continuing efforts detailing the issues of using social media, many children of primary school age will not have the emotional maturity to use these networks with appropriate levels of care and restraint, and may not consider the impact of their comments or actions in the heat of the moment.

Teachers have discussed these concerns with the children this week, asking them to consider the responsibilities of using social media and chat apps, and the consequences of inappropriate messaging.

If you have any concerns, please see Mrs Crossman or the IT Manager Julian Bryant.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Tonia Crossman
Headteacher