

St John's Primary School and Nursery



National Support School
designated by



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Dear Parents and Carers,

ONLINE SAFETY – YEAR 2

In our online safety lesson this half term, we have been learning about digital footprints and what they are. We know that the more information you share, the bigger your digital footprint becomes. We also know that it is not safe to share our private information like our full name, date of birth or address, but we can share personal information like hobbies and our favourite things.

From 2S, 2T, Miss Smyth and Miss Tonge

Common Sense on Privacy and Digital Footprints



What's the Issue?

Our kids live in a culture of sharing that has forever changed the concept of privacy. In a world where everyone is connected and anything created online can be copied, pasted and sent to thousands of people in a heartbeat, privacy starts to mean something different than simply guarding personal or private information. In this context, you might think about children's privacy in three categories: privacy and security, privacy and reputation, and privacy and advertising.

Privacy and security: This is the private information, e.g. National Insurance number, first and last name, that could put children at risk of identity theft if it got into the wrong hands.

Privacy and reputation: The information that could be personally embarrassing or hurtful to them or others if posted publicly.

Privacy and advertising: The information about their habits and behaviour online that companies collect in order to target them with ads and other content.

Why Does It Matter?

For good or bad, everything our children do online creates digital footprints that migrate and persist. Children share work with others and, as they get older, receive comments and feedback. This culture of sharing is beneficial in many ways. However, if children aren't careful, their reputations can be harmed or their information used in ways they never intended. For example, your child may think he or she just sent something to a friend, but that friend can send it to a friend's friend, who can in turn send it to their friends' friends, and so on. Or they may innocently fill out an online form without understanding that this may make them vulnerable to identity theft. Their online behaviour is likely to be tracked without their knowledge by the industry, which has little incentive to be responsible.

common sense says

Make sure children get your permission before filling out forms. Let children know that you are the gatekeeper. They should ask your permission before filling out online forms and they should always keep their date of birth, address and full name private.

Help children think long term. Everything online leaves a digital footprint. Help them think before they post so that they will be proud of their internet presence in the future.

Remind children that the Golden Rule applies online. Remind children that they will be treated online as they treat others. Whatever negative things they say can and probably will come back to haunt them, in more ways that they can imagine.

Help children see through advertising. The next time an ad pops up online, or you see that you are being targeted by ads specific to your interests, point it out to your children. Let them know that some companies advertise to you based on what kinds of things you look at online.

Follow the Digital Trail

* DID YOU KNOW ...

Scientists who study animal trails and footprints are called ichnologists!

Word Search

s	a	f	e	i	t	t
e	n	i	l	n	o	c
e	l	e	e	k	l	e
e	i	e	o	i	a	j
i	n	t	a	a	a	b
e	k	r	e	a	a	u
e	t	s	l	r	l	s

safe trail link subject online

* WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Can you put interesting and funny information online and still be appropriate?

* DO YOU REMEMBER ...

What it means to have a "digital footprint"?

1. Family Activity

Think together about three things that are OK to reveal on the Internet and three things that are not OK to reveal. Trace each of your feet on a piece of paper (one piece of paper for each foot). Write the things that are OKAY to reveal in one footprint and the things that are NOT OKAY to reveal in the other footprint. Then, tear up the page with the unacceptable things to remind yourself that those are not pieces of information you want saved as part of your digital footprint!

2. Tech It Up!

Together, use the Internet to find information about a favorite animal's footprints. Are they larger or smaller than yours? Remember that a footprint leaves an impression after the animal has walked away -- just like your digital footprint leaves a trail of everything you do online.

3. Common Sense Says ...

Some information is not appropriate to post on the Internet! Your interests, hobbies, and first name are examples of APPROPRIATE information. Your full name, address, and hurtful information about other are examples of INAPPROPRIATE information.