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designated by



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Dear Parents and Carers,

ONLINE SAFETY – YEAR 6

As part of Safer Internet Day (6th February 2018), we learnt about online safety. We learnt what a privacy policy is and why they are important for online safety. We were told what a privacy policy is: it is a long document that tells you what the website you are using will do with any private information you give it and it should be on every website. We looked at some different websites for children and found that in some places it was easy to find the privacy policy and in other places it was much harder. We discussed why it's important to know what websites do with the information you give them because it could be personal. We decided that it was always best to check with an adult when putting things like your email or full name into a website.

From 6E, 6L, Miss Eggleton and Mr Lee

Common Sense on Privacy and Digital Footprints



What's the Issue?

Our children 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 very different from 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 fell 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 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 will probably 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 National Insurance number, 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 down the road.

Remind kids 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 than they can imagine.

Help child 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 that some companies advertise to you based on what kinds of things you look at online.

Privacy Rules

* DID YOU KNOW ...

Children have special legal protection online. All websites that collect information about children under the age of 13 are required by law to follow a law called COPPA (the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act), which is meant to give parents control over the information that websites collected

Match the words to their definition

privacy policy	a sign or stamp that states that a website, company, or group meets a certain set of standards and is doing a good job
seal of approval	using technology tools such as the Internet and cell phones to deliberately upset someone else
cyberbullying	a legal document that explains how a website gathers and uses your private information
stereotype	an idea about a group of people that's not always true

* WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Why should you not give out your private information?

1. Family Activity

With a family member, come up with a privacy policy for your bedroom.

What are some privacy rules you would like other family members to follow? Why are they important to you? Some examples might include knocking before entering or asking before borrowing something. Discuss your expectations with one another and agree on privacy policies for your bedrooms. Write down the rules you both agree on to formalise your privacy policy.

* DO YOU REMEMBER ...
How you can tell if a website protects your private information?

2. Tech It Up!

Websites have privacy policies too. With a parent, visit three sites you like to explore online. On each site, see if you can find the privacy policy. Next, look to see if the website has a privacy seal of approval and whether there's a contact to whom parents can reach out with questions about privacy.

3. Common Sense Says ...

Even if a site has a privacy policy, be careful! The site still might use your private information in ways you don't want it to. Look for websites with privacy seals of approval. Also, avoid giving out your full name, address, phone number, or email address on websites without getting permission from a parent or trusted adult.