

Staying Safe Online

Moving from Year 6 to Year 7 is an exciting milestone – a time to make new friends, explore new opportunities and become part of a wider school community. As part of this transition, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils feel safe, supported and confident – both in school and online.

In recent years, we have found that some of the challenges new Year 7 pupils experience relate to their online life outside of school, issues such as joining whole social media group chats, viewing inappropriate content on the internet, peer pressure via social media and inappropriate online interactions. These issues can affect pupils' wellbeing and sometimes carry over into school life.

To help prevent this, we encourage pupils and families to think carefully about **online safety before September**. By taking small, proactive steps, pupils and parents can start secondary school feeling secure and ready to succeed.

We have provided a selection of guides which cover the following topics (all one page):

- Smartphone safety tips for young people. This covers tips on how young smartphone owners stay safe while enjoying their device.
- Top tips for safety on social media. Support on helping your child(ren) enjoy the features of social media while avoiding the risks.
- Social media and mental health. Support on hiding content, setting daily limits and discussions on what they could have seen online.
- How to set up parental controls to limit age-inappropriate content for Android phones. Support on how to block or restrict certain apps, features, content, downloads or purchases.
- How to set up parental controls to limit age-inappropriate content for iPhone. Support on how to block or restrict certain apps, features, content, downloads or purchases.
- How to set up parental controls on new devices. A guide which was released around Christmas time which is relevant if you intend to purchase new phones or devices to support your child's education.
- How to set up parental controls for Apps on Android phones. Support on controls for managing apps on iPhones which will help you to reduce the chance of your child using a game or app that might not be appropriate for their age.
- How to set up parental controls for Apps on iPhone. Support on controls for managing apps on iPhones which will help you to reduce the chance of your child using a game or app that might not be appropriate for their age.

Parents and carers can support by having open conversations about online behaviour, setting clear expectations and regularly checking in with their child's digital activity.

At our school, we will continue to build on this through our **online safety curriculum, pastoral support and clear expectations for respectful behaviour**. By working together before pupils arrive, we can create a safer, more positive start to secondary school for everyone.