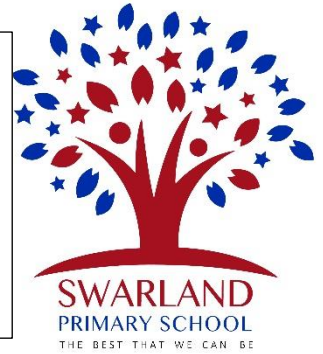# Online safety information and support for parents

Introduction

Online safety encompasses the safe use of new technologies, internet and electronic communications such as mobile phones, collaboration tools and personal publishing. At Swarland Primary School we educate pupils about the benefits and risks of using technology and provides safeguarding awareness for users to enable them to control their online experience and assess risk.

The purpose of this document is to provide parents and carers with information regarding the safety measures we have taken as a school to educate and protect children from online risks and provide support for parents to assist with online safety at home.

Whole School Approach

All our staff take part in regular online safety training to keep them up to date with online risks and harms as well as assess the potential benefits of new technologies. Our computing and Personal Social Health Education curriculum from Reception to Year 6 covers how to stay safe online, how to ask for help, how to assess risks as well as explore the skills and knowledge associated with computing such as data programming, digital photography, collaboration and communication, creating media products and much more. All of our children and parents are asked to sign and review an acceptable internet user agreement which revisits the importance of showing respect online, keeping passwords safe and seeking help if something online upsets them.

Monitoring & Filtering

Filtering and monitoring are safeguarding measures put in place to keep all users of our school network safe.

Filtering blocks access to illegal, harmful and inappropriate content on the internet. It is important to recognise that no filter is 100% effective, regardless of which product we use. It is vital that all users of our network understand how to raise concerns and report any content they come across that is illegal or inappropriate, this can then be blocked retrospectively. Our school uses a system called Fortinet.

Monitoring provides insight into user actions whilst on the internet, for example which websites they visit and which search terms they enter. We use a system called Senso.

Software

All the software programmes we use at school are vetted by staff before using with pupils. We use Mathletics, Times Table Rock Stars, School 360, Google Suite, IDL (a literacy programme), Read Write Inc phonics and spellings and Scratch computer programming.

Online Collaboration & Communication

The internet can be a fabulous resource for research and communicating with others. All communication systems are monitored by staff for example if children take part in live streaming events, a member of staff is always present and has vetted the event. Older children will be taught how to compose and send emails but functionality will be set to other Swarland School users only using their School 360 account. Mathletics live has a feature where children can compete with other children from all over the world but no conversation or chat room is enabled in this programme or any other.

Parental Support At Home

The following provide a list of resources which you may find useful.

Cyber Sprinters is designed to help 7-11 year olds stay secure online and includes a digital game, a range of activities and Cyber Sprinter puzzles.

Snakes & Ladders game provide opportunities for families to chat about their online experiences in a casual way and raise awareness of key issues with their child.

Digital Wellbeing :Finding a balance This short video highlights the impact of technology on a family.

NSPCC have created a video about Parents & kids talking with Lego bricks

Internet Matters have step by step guides on setting up Broadband and 4G for family use.

Gaming Device & Consoles If your child is a keen gamer and uses a range of consoles or devices to play the latest games, this guide takes a look at parental control how-to guides to get up to speed on how to set the right level of protection to give them a fun and safe experience while playing video games.

Parental Controls for mobile devices advice and support.

Social Media This guidance supports parents in setting up parental controls on social media apps.

Search engines and entertainment With most entertainment content such as films, TV programmes, and games now being accessed over the internet, children are now able to watch content wherever and whenever they're online. To make sure they don't stumble across things they shouldn't, you can use parental control guides to set the right controls on their sites and apps to keep them safe.

Think You Know How to report a concern or an incident

Computer Game ratings Explore if a game is age appropriate for your child.

If you have any other queries about our whole school approach to online safety or require any further parental support, please contact the school.