

ONLINE SAFETY REMINDER AND CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS

Tuesday 12th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

During this time of learning at home the use of technology has been useful in supporting learning and helping families to keep in touch with friends and loved ones. At the beginning of the academic year we sent home a family Acceptable User Policy to support families in using technology safely. Thank you for signing these and returning them to school demonstrating your commitment to online safety.

Below, please find a list of important actions for families to check on today to ensure that your children are using technology safely in the home:

- Any online Safeguarding concerns should be reported to a member of the DSL team on: cpollock@themendipschool.com or nhanna@themendipschool.com

However, if a child is at immediate risk, please contact Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224 or the emergency services on 999.

- Ensure that your child only uses technology in a family space, supervised by a parent or carer. Do not let your child use technology unsupervised.
- Monitor all technology your child/ren are using. Please check today and regularly all devices that your child is using and that they are not accessing APPs that are not age-appropriate and that the security settings are up to date. The picture below will help you in your decision making.
- We know you are aware that signing up to the social network tools below means you are over 13 but we also recognise that some children are using these, although we would strongly advise against this. Please check these links to help keep your children safe. You will recognise that we have shared many of these before:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/snapchat/>

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/instagram/>

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/tiktok-checklists/>

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/roblox/>

- Ensure that you have up to date parental controls on all devices that your children are accessing. If you are unsure what to use, there is some advice here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

www.themendipschool.co.uk

- Please keep talking to your child about keeping safe online. Have you created a family agreement about how to keep safe? Please find a template at the end for you to all sign up to.
- Some other helpful websites are:

NSPCC Online Safety <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

UK Safer Internet Centre: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Advice on screen time <http://bit.ly/RCPCH-ScreenTimeForParents>

Ask About Games www.askaboutgames.com

Thank you for continuing to work in partnership with us on this very important matter. You will have seen that we are continuing to post online safety information daily on Dojo.

Technology is wonderful and it is a vital part of our children's world and learning, but it is essential we continue to support them in using it in a safe and healthy way. A big part of this is ensuring that they are supervised using devices at all times. We recognise that everyone needs time alone and that is healthy and necessary, but this is not a time for children to have devices with them as it means parents and carers are unable to monitor children's use. If your child has accessed something inappropriate try not to become angry or cross as this will shut down communication. Most children click on things by accident and we want the children to tell us so we can report it. They haven't done anything wrong so please stay calm and talk with your child.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school or Jake (jgodfrey@themendipschool.com)

With very best wishes to you and your family,



Natalie Hanna
Head of School

This is an agreement you can use to help your child stay healthy, happy, safe when they use technology

Our Family Contract

Children agree to:

- Talk about what I do online and the technology I use
- Show you what I do online
- Check before I download a new app
- Share games I play
- Join in with family activities

Adults agree to:

- Stay calm when problems happen with technology
- Ask permission before posting photos of family
- Discuss apps and check them out together
- Join in with technology activities

Everyone agrees to:

- Family time without technology
- Switch off at an agreed time each night
- Talk about what we do online, just as we do with other activities
- Keep screens out of bedrooms