

## Internet Safety

Dear Parents and Carers,

The use of technology is ever present in the lives of young people.

In the summer term last year, our Year 2 and Year 6 pupils completed a survey which included some internet safety questions. Many pupils said that they used the internet practically unsupervised, and accessed social media sites (such as Facebook) that may contain adult content.

At Riverside we are keen to help your children to stay safe online. As part of the national curriculum, children are taught how to do this. This letter includes details of what we are doing, and how you can support this at home to help your children use the internet safely.

As a school, Riverside uses the “Hector’s World” series of cartoons for Key Stage 1 pupils and “Lee and Kim’s Adventures” for Key Stage 2. Produced by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Command, part of the National Crime Agency, these can both be accessed at home via the CEOP website. The cartoons are short and each one deals with a different aspect of internet safety. These may be useful to reinforce what children are shown at school, and to help you understand the specific dangers that children need to be aware of when they are online. Our school website also has a lot of advice and guidance, for parents who would like it, on staying safe online. The site can be accessed at <http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre> or via the CEOP link from our school website. Furthermore, there is a lot of information accessible on our school website, under curriculum-foundation subjects-information technology, or you can just click [HERE](#).

Every year, we review our provision and add to what we provide to suit what our pupils describe – for example in March, each year 5/6 class will spend a half day working with Connecting Youth Culture through drama/role play to explore themes of cyber safety and cyber bullying.

As with any form of bullying, at Riverside we take a zero tolerance approach to cyber bullying and we encourage any cases of this to be reported to class teachers to be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

We strongly recommend that even the older children in the school are supervised when online and that parental controls are in place where necessary. It is essential that parents check their children’s internet history and are aware of what they are being exposed to on the internet. Unfortunately the internet has no watershed and inappropriate material is available at all times of the day. At school, we both supervise at all times and use a highly effective filtering service called ‘Smoothwall,’ which allows us to select and block sites, pop-ups, etc at a level far beyond any generic internet provider.

We are aware that the use of social media is becoming more common and would like to remind all parents that it is not advised for anyone under the age of 13 to have a facebook/twitter or instagram account. If pupils are allowed to access their parents account, then we strongly recommend supervision with this as not all activity can be traced and often people are unaware of what others can see.

If there is sufficient interest, we have plans to run internet safety workshops for parents in the coming months. If you have any further concerns regarding internet safety, please feel free to contact school.

Kind regards,

Mr Will Calvert

ICT Lead