St Francis Catholic Primary School
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Friday 8th December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

At school we take the safety of our pupils very seriously including their safety while they access the internet, we want this approach to e-safety to spread to the home online environment too and we are therefore sharing with you some tips and resources to help you guide your children and help you keep up to date in a digital world.

Here are a few tips to help you keep your children safe on line:

- Think u know(https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
  is always a good place to start – you will see the report abuse button that your child will know about from school.
- Another site that is helpful for parent controls is UK Safer Internet Centre
  (http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers)

This site advises you to take four steps:

1. Have ongoing conversations with your children about staying safe online
2. Use safety tools on social networks and other online services, eg Facebook privacy settings
3. Decide if you want to use parental controls on your home internet
4. Understand devices and the parental control tools they offer in our Parents' Guide to Technology

Digital Parenting is another useful website to look at – http://www.pitda.co.uk

There are three areas to think about:

                 WHO your child is talking to,
                 WHAT they're doing, and
                 WHERE they're going online

Digital Parenting also advises you to set **"ground rules"** by making your own family IT policy.

Create your own Family IT policy - Ideas for the Under 5's

The big issues
Create boundaries and rules for the amount of time your son or daughter can spend online. It's never too early to start putting limits into place.

The basics - choose an appropriate homepage on your family computer or tablet – for example, bbc.co.uk/cbeebies

Worth Checking The educational apps, games and TV shows on offer for pre-school children, and the age ratings and descriptions for them.

Talk it through Share your technology rules with grandparents, babysitters and older siblings, so that they stick to them when they look after your child or use the family computer.

And finally…..

The rules and conversation you have now will set the tone for your child's internet use as they get older.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online.

 Yours Sincerely

E A Blanden