Thomas Telford School

Online Safety Newsletter

Welcome to our Online Safety Parents Newsletter for the Autumn Term. Online Safety is important for everyone to understand. Students will learn a range of different things in school to help expand their knowledge of the internet, social media and online platforms. As parents/carers, we want you to follow this learning journey with us.

Keeping your child safe online

Tips from Mr. Nicholls- Talking about Online Safety

"It is important to have regular conversations about staying safe online and to encourage children to speak to you if they come across something worrying online".

"Talk to your child about the importance of creating a safe online environment, including keeping any log-in details and passwords safe".

"If they feel worried about content they have found or contact that has been made with them, encourage them to tell someone".

Focus on TikTok

TikTok's minimum age requirement

13 is the minimum age according to TikTok's Terms and Conditions. However, the Google Play Store marks it as requiring Parental Guidance. Additionally, the Apple Play Store says it's for 12+.

TikTok offers built-in parental controls called "Family Pairing" to help parents manage their child's account, including screen time limits, restricted mode, and direct message settings. Parents can also set accounts to private and filter comments to ensure a safer experience for their children.

Guidance from Safer Internet Centre

To ensure online safety for your children, involve them in open conversations about the internet, utilise parental controls and filters, and model safe online habits. Encourage them to communicate openly about their online experiences and to report on any concerning situations.

1. Establish Clear Expectations and Rules:

- Set limits: Define appropriate screen time and online activities for your child.
- Discuss online interactions: Have open conversations about who they communicate with online and what they share.
- Create a family agreement: Work together to establish ground rules for internet use.
- Supervise and monitor: Pay attention to your child's online activity, especially for younger children.

Useful links for Parents/Carers

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https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/secondary/

https://www.childnet.com/resources/know-it-all-secondary-toolkits/

https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/

https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/child-abuse-and-harm/keeping-children-safe-online/how-to-talk-children-safe-online