



**EWELL GROVE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL**

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# **ONLINE SAFETY**

  

# **FOR PARENTS**

Parents and school, in partnership, play a pivotal role in helping all our children learn the foundations of safe online behaviour. Even if your child doesn't have access to technology within your home, at some point they will inevitably be using it at school as well as possibly when visiting friends/family or in other public spaces

Children are naturally curious in understanding the world we live in; it is our responsibility to enable them to do so, including helping them to recognise the value of technology and use it safely. Role modelling safe use of technology needs to become part of each adult's everyday practice.

### **WHY DOES EWELL GROVE FOCUS ON ONLINE SAFETY FROM SUCH AN EARLY AGE?**

Ofcom's 'Children and Parents Media Use and Attitudes Report' (2018 – released in January 2019) found that:

- **1% of 3-4-year olds have their own smartphone and 19% have their own tablet**
- **52% of 3-4-year olds go online for an average of nearly 9 hours a week**
- **45% of 3-4-year olds use YouTube**

It's important that we ensure every child is learning about the world around them and how to keep themselves safe online from the earliest opportunity.

### **WHAT ONLINE RISKS MIGHT CHILDREN EXPERIENCE?**

Children could be at risk of ...

#### **1. Content (what they may see):**

- Exposure to inappropriate videos, pictures or messages which might upset, worry or frighten them
- Imitating harmful or inappropriate behaviour they see online
- Searching for inappropriate content on purpose or stumbling upon it by accident. This would include using voice activated tools to search for content
- Inadvertently giving apps or websites permission to share their location or other personal information
- Spending real money via in-app or in-game purchases

#### **2. Contact (who might communicate with them):**

- Being abused online (including sexually) by people they don't know, such as when gaming or using video chat
- Being abused online (including sexually) by people they know, such as friends and family members
- Sending images or information to people on the device's contact list

#### **3. Conduct (how they might behave):**

- Exhibiting unhealthy behaviours and boundaries around their use of screens
- Being unkind to each other online as well as offline; this could be using mean words or by excluding others from their games
- Using words or terminology which are not appropriate for their age
- Engaging in unhealthy relationships
- As part of natural development children may exhibit curiosity about their own and others' private body parts; if this occurs via technology children may be at risk of taking inappropriate or indecent images and videos of themselves

## **WHAT STRATEGIES CAN WE PUT IN PLACE TO MINIMISE RISK?**

- Check apps, websites and search results before children use them
- Children, especially in Early Years, should always be supervised when accessing the internet.
- Ensure safety modes and filters are applied - default settings tend not to ensure a high level of privacy or security. But remember children of all ages still need to be supervised closely.
- Adults to role model safe, courteous behaviour and privacy awareness. Talk to children about safe use, for example ask permission before taking a picture; a photo is personal data so you must never assume that consent has been given.
- Check privacy settings to make sure personal data is not being shared inadvertently or inappropriately.

## **WHAT OTHER ONLINE RISKS MIGHT CHILDREN EXPERIENCE AT HOME?**

Risks could be posed to children because of the online behaviour of their parents/carers; this could include oversharing information about their children (or other children) online, and could, for example, include information which could identify a child or the school that they attend.

Whilst sharing of images of children is a matter for parents and carers, care should be taken with privacy settings so there is some control over the image and who has access to it.

## **WHAT ONLINE SAFETY RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT FAMILIES?**

Childnet: Storybooks for early years and KS1 pupils

[Smartie the Penguin](#)

[Digiduck Stories](#)

Thinkuknow: [Resources for early years and KS1 pupils from NCA-CEOP](#)

Thinkuknow: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

AskAboutGames: [Supporting families with video games](#)

Childnet: [Keeping under-fives safe online](#)

Internet Matters: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice>

NSPCC: [Guidance for parents on keeping children safe online](#)

Parent Zone: [Digital Parenting magazine](#)