## ONLINE SAFETY

Families play a key role in helping pupils to stay safe online, so it is important that you are aware of what you can do. It is also vital that everyone understand the measures schools have in place to protect pupils online.

At Pimperne Primary School, we understand that the online world is a significant part of our pupils' lives and that it can be a positive tool, e.g. to enhance their learning. We also know that there are risks posed to pupils online. We believe it is important for us to work in partnership with our families to keep pupils safe online.

**What are some of the risks children and young people face online?**

The online world is constantly evolving which means the risks children can face also change. Here, we have provided information on some of the categories of potential harms that children can face online:

- **Content** – this involves being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, e.g. pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.

- **Contact** – this involves being subjected to harmful online interaction with others online, e.g. peer pressure, commercial advertising, and adults posing as children or young adults with the intent to groom or exploit children.

- **Conduct** – this is online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, e.g. making, sending and receiving explicit images, sharing other explicit images, and cyberbullying.

- **Commerce** – this includes risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and financial scams.

**What is the school doing to help protect pupils?**

We adopt a whole-school approach to online safety, meaning that online safety is integrated through all aspects of school life to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect pupils from online harms.

**As part of our approach to online safety, we:**

➤ **Train Staff**

Ensure that all staff at the school receive high-quality training in online safety and know what to do when a concern is raised, or an incident occurs.

All staff members receive training in online safety when they first start working at the school. After this, staff continue to regularly receive updates regarding online safety. We also make sure that staff members actively keep themselves informed about issues relating to online safety.

➤ **Teach pupils about the importance of online safety**

Teaching about online safety is integrated throughout the curriculum, but it is a key focus in relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) – which is a mandatory part of the school's curriculum. RSHE includes pupils being taught in an age-appropriate way about:

• What positive, healthy and respectful online relationships look like.

• The effects of their online actions on others.

• How to recognise and display respectful behaviour online.

• How to use technology safely, responsibly, respectfully and securely.

• Where to go for help and support when they have concerns.

If you would like more information about what is included in the school's RSHE curriculum, please look at the Curriculum Tab, under Curriculum Subjects.

The school's approach to online safety is set out and implemented through a variety of policies and procedures, including the following:

• Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

• Online Safety Policy

• Technology acceptable use agreements

*Copies of these policies are available on the school website.*

**Implement appropriate filtering and monitoring software**

We have a number of procedures in place to ensure pupils cannot access unsuitable content when online at school. The school monitors the use of online sites and has robust filtering in place. There are procedures in place to report any unsuitable content in the event that there are any filtering concerns.

**What can parents / carers do to help protect children online?**

As parents and carers, you play an essential role in protecting your children online. There are lots of ways you can help to minimise the risks and increase the awareness of online safety in your home. We have listed some of the ways you can do this below:

✓ Talk to your children about why it is important to stay safe online. Explain that whilst the internet is a fun, exciting and knowledge-rich tool, it is also a place where people may wish to bring them into dangerous activities or expose them to harmful material. It is important to be clear that you are not saying your child may never use the internet again, or that everything on it is harmful – it is about teaching them to have a greater awareness and to be able to manage and report any risks.

✓ Only give your children devices or access to devices that you feel comfortable with, and not as a result of peer-pressure deriving from their classmates and/or friends who are also using those devices.

✓ Discuss rules for being online and draw them up together, including which sites, games, etc., are acceptable. If certain games are off-limits, try to explain why – for example, because of excessive violence. If your child uses online gaming, consider setting

rules such as only talking to others in the same age range and having the conversation on speaker, rather than headphones, so you can monitor it.

✓ Discuss what information should be private and what is ok to share; for example, addresses, names of schools, and names should never be given out to strangers online, as this could allow them to identify where your child goes to school or lives.

✓ Keep an open dialogue with your child – letting them know they can always talk to you about anything that has made them feel uncomfortable online is key to keeping them safe.

✓ Ensure all devices used by your child are kept in a communal space, or a space where they can be supervised whilst using their devices.

✓ Set parental controls – do this as a dialogue with your child so they are aware of what they are not allowed to view; however, do not rely on parental controls on devices, as they are not always 100 percent effective and many children know how to bypass them.

✓ Make sure your child knows how to report or 'block' unsuitable content, messages or people online – show them how to block on the websites or games they frequently use and explain that they can always tell you, a teacher or another adult if they experience anything which makes them feel uncomfortable.

**Here are some other resources you can use to help you protect your children online:**

• **NSPCC** – 'Talking to your child about online safety' (https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/)

• **Childnet** – 'Have a conversation' (https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation/)

- **Thinkuknow** (https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/)

- **UK Safer Internet Centre** (https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers)

If you would like to speak to anyone at school about online safety, please contact either your child's class teacher or a member of the safeguarding team below.

DSL  - Mrs F Waller

DDSL – Mrs S Groves

DDSL – Mrs G Gatehouse

DDSL – Mrs K Raine

**We do send out regular Online Safety Handouts with up to date information to help support everyday online use in the home. Please look out for these coming via ParentMail**. If you would like information on a specific aspect please contact the school office.