



Enhancing learning for all

E-Safety – Staying safe while online

September 2020

Staying safe while online

Oasis Horizons will enable our students to access the internet and online technology, which provide fantastic new opportunities for young people's learning and their growth. However, we also need to be aware that it can expose them to new types of risks.

For many young people, being online is a big part of their lives - social media enables them to connect, online games to play and socialise, websites and apps to educate and inform. Being aware of how to stay safe online, or e-safety, is how we can ensure our young people enjoy all the benefits of being online whilst being protected.

What support will my child receive regarding e-safety?

We take your child's safety online very seriously. Each Oasis Academy is required to teach online safety that empowers, builds resilience and develops a positive online culture amongst our students.

As outlined in Oasis's Online Safety Curriculum Policy, the lessons your child receive will promote the development of safe and appropriate long-term behaviours, to ensure students keep themselves safe online and learn to take responsibility for their own behaviour and choices.

In addition to a comprehensive set of lessons and resources regarding e-safety, each iPad will have the Safer Schools App installed onto it.

Safer School App

The Safer School App provides age appropriate, interactive content for pupils on how to stay safe online.

In addition, your Academy will also make available a parents' version, which you will be able to download to your phone, computer or tablet free of charge.

The app has lots of features including advice on emerging trends, an Online Safety Centre which covers how to block, report and set safety settings, and training courses.

Be sure to access the Safer School App with your child on their iPad.

What are my responsibilities?

When your child is using the iPad outside of school, you will be responsible for supervising what content they are accessing, and how they are interacting with others.

We also ask that you follow the e-safety briefings on the Safer School App.

An initial conversation with your child about e-safety may revolve around the following points:

- Never give out personal information – remember to make sure your photos don't give away any clues such as your house number, birthday or school
- Don't meet up with a stranger you have met online. Talk to your parents, guardian or a teacher if someone asks you to do this –remember you don't really know who they are.
- Don't open emails or links sent to you by people you don't know, they could contain a virus.
- Don't believe everything you read on-line, check the facts first.
- If you feel something may be wrong or you don't feel safe tell your parent, guardian or a teacher, they won't be angry.

- Be as nice to people online as you would be face-to-face.

An introduction to e-safety

The UK Safer Internet Centre (saferinternet.org.uk) has a wealth of information and resources for parents and children on how to stay safe online. They list four categories we should all be aware of when it comes to risks online.¹

Conduct - Children may be at risk because of their own behaviour, for example, by sharing too much information

Children need to be aware of the impact that their online activity can have on both themselves and other people, and the digital footprint that they create on the internet. It's easy to feel anonymous online and it's important that children are aware of who is able to view, and potentially share, the information that they may have posted. When using the internet, it's important to keep personal information safe and not share it with strangers.

Discuss with your child the importance of reporting inappropriate conversations, messages, images and behaviours and how this can be done.

Content: Age-inappropriate or unreliable content can be available to children

Some online content is not suitable for children and may be hurtful or harmful. This is true for content accessed and viewed via social networks, online games, blogs and websites. It's important for children to consider the reliability of online material and be aware that it might not be true or written with a bias.

Children may need your help as they begin to assess content in this way. There can be legal consequences for using or downloading copyrighted content, without seeking the author's permission.

Contact: Children can be contacted by bullies or people who groom or seek to abuse them

It is important for children to realise that new friends made online may not be who they say they are and that once a friend is added to an online account, you may be sharing your personal information with them. Regularly reviewing friends lists and removing unwanted contacts is a useful step. Privacy settings online may also allow you to customise the information that each friend is able to access.

If you have concerns that your child is, or has been, the subject of an inappropriate approach by another person, it's vital that you report it to the police via the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (www.ceop.police.uk), and let the Academy know as soon as possible.

If your child is the victim of cyberbullying, this can also be reported online and offline. Reinforce with your child the importance of telling a trusted adult straight away if someone is bullying them or making them feel uncomfortable, or if one of their friends is being bullied online.

Commercialism: Young people can be unaware of hidden costs and advertising in apps, games and websites

¹ <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/what-are-issues>

Young people's privacy and enjoyment online can sometimes be affected by advertising and marketing schemes, which can also mean inadvertently spending money online, for example within applications.

Encourage your children to keep their personal information private, learn how to block both pop ups and spam emails, turn off in-app purchasing on devices where possible, and use a family email address when filling in online forms.

Where can I find out more?

The NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

UK Safer Internet Centre - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

The Safer Schools App <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/>

The UK Council for Internet Safety - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-council-for-internet-safety>