E-SAFETY AND COMPUTING AT ST MARK'S

St Mark's
Church of England Primary School

WHAT IS E-SAFETY?

E-safety is all about staying safe online. It also covers the safe and responsible use of the devices and services we use in our everyday lives such as our phones, games consoles and email.

Our school plays a key role in the education of staff, students and parents in relation to E-safety, encouraging safe computing both at school and at home.

Computers and the internet are fantastic tools that schools can utilise to help educate their pupils however, we must remain safe and secure when accessing them.

The more aware we are of E-safety, the better our school will be at using IT systems for our benefit.

Our E-safety policy can be found on our website.

E-SAFETY STATISTICS

Almost 1 in 4 of 8 to 11-year-olds and 3 in 4 of 12 to 15-year-olds has a **social media profile**

Around 1 in 8 young people have been **bullied on social media**

3 in 4 **parents** have looked for or received information or advice about how to help their child **manage online risks**

Source: NSPCC. Ofcom (2017) https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/108182/children-parents-media-use-attitudes-2017.pdf

E-SAFETY RESEARCH

Screen Time:

In its 2018 review of scientific literature, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) concludes that there is **"essentially no evidence" for the statement that "screen time is directly 'toxic' to health"**.

In the same report, however, the RCPCH warn that it is possible for screen time to have some negative impact by displacing positive activities such as socialising, good sleep, diet and exercise.

Source: Think You Know - https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/our-views/screen-time-should-we-be-worried/

THINK YOU KNOW: GAMING!

There are a variety of games available aimed at various ages: from mission-based adventure to animation and sports themed. For most children and young people, gaming is a fun way to spend time with friends and create opportunities to develop teamwork, concentration skills and problem-solving.

The dangers associated with online gaming can come in the form of messaging and chat services that allow anyone from around the world to communicate with each other. Such a feature leaves children open to being contacted by individuals that could expose them to dangerous materials.

Think You Know Gaming: https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/

DANGERS OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND MESSAGING SERVICES

Recently, there have been cases of child suicides relating to young children and their interaction with so-called "WhatsApp games". One of the most prolific cases of this is Momo, a horrific set of tasks sent to children to complete via online messaging services, ranging from self-harm to suicide. YouTube, YouTube Kids and various video games are also reported to have contained content relating to Momo.

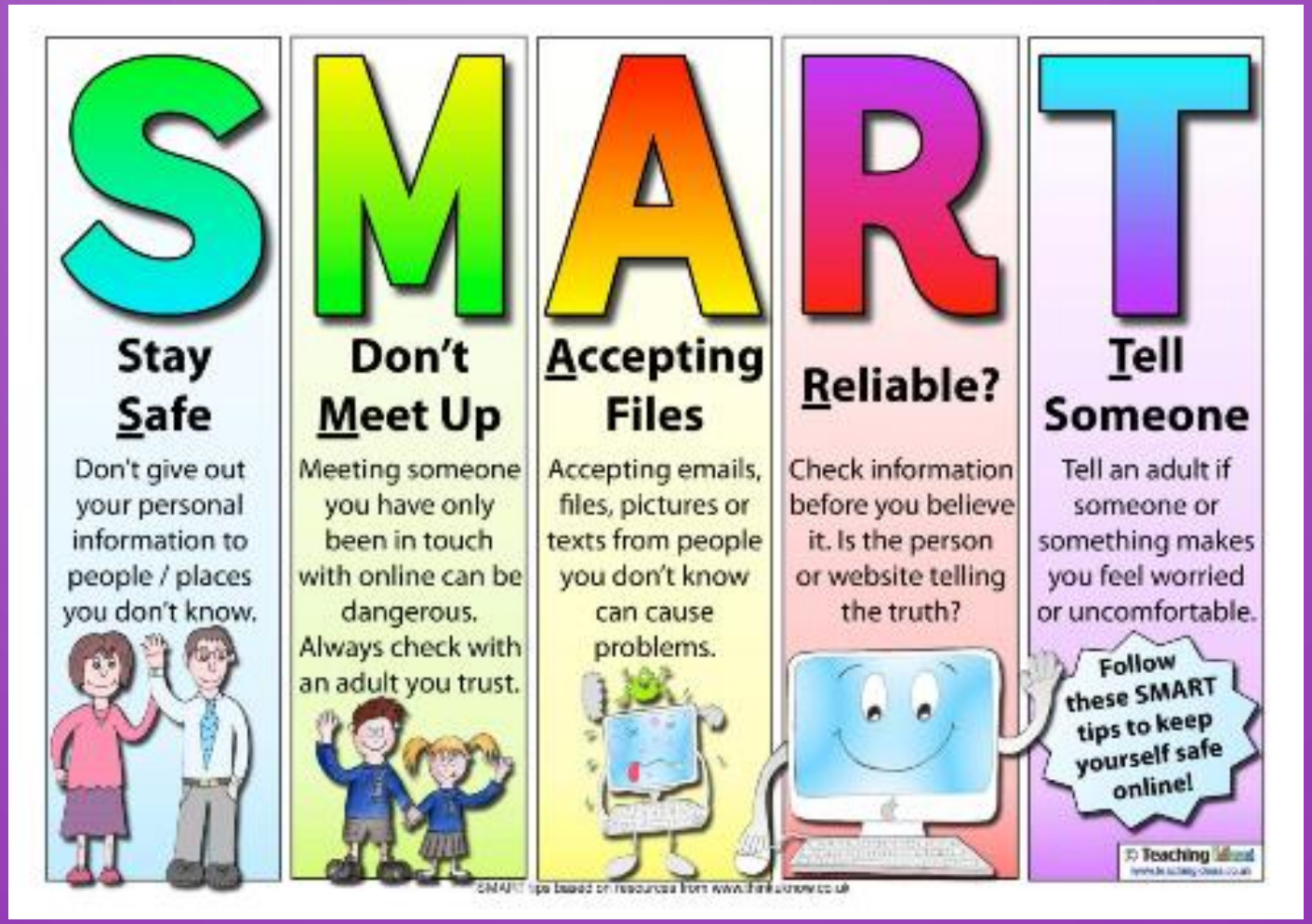
The issue of Momo has been raised within our school both from children who have experienced interaction with the phenomenon and from staff who have raised awareness via our Facebook page for the benefit of parents.

We urge parents to discuss the dangers of social media with their children, and to make them aware that if they were to come across anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online that they should tell an adult immediately.

Most social media platforms require users to be aged **13 or older**, protecting younger children from the risks associated with the use of platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.

Help and support can be found at: https://www.bullying.co.uk/ and Childline: Phone 0800 1111

SMART POSTER



These helpful SMART posters have been handed out around school to help children and staff better understand E-Safety.

THE DIGITAL LEADERS PROGRAMME

Alongside Pentland Primary School, our trust partner, we are taking part in the digital leaders programme, set up to better educate pupils about E-safety.

The Childnet Digital Leaders Programme is a youth leadership training programme empowering young people to educate their peers about online safety.

"We are the only online safety charity in the UK delivering an online peer to peer programme that directly helps schools to embed online safety. Once on board, groups of Digital Leaders complete training through an engaging, informative and fun online platform, working through e-learning modules to equip them with the skills to become peer mentors in their schools, and help keep others safe online. When they are qualified, Digital Leaders are encouraged to advocate for online safety in their schools and communities by running offline and online activities, for which they will be awarded additional team achievement badges and points." – Childnet

Source: Childnet - https://digital-leaders.childnet.com/

OUR DIGITAL LEADERS

Several KS2 children have been chosen to act as the digital leaders for our school. They will play a key role in educating their peers around E-safety. Here they are on a recent visit to Pentland Primary School alongside the digital leaders from Pentland.

COMPUTING AT ST MARK'S KS1

Mrs Headlam's Year 1 class learning about E-Safety and Email.

COMPUTING AT ST MARK'S KS1

Miss Boagey's Year 2 class using iPads to learn coding.

COMPUTING AT ST MARK'S KS2

Year 3 / 4 learning about E-Safety. The children acted out their own scenarios and created posters relating to E-safety

E-SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. Use parental controls to restrict what your children can access on their devices. This ensures your child only sees what you want them to see and is protected from harmful materials.

2. Regularly discuss E-safety with your children to let them know it's an important topic and that you are there to support them with any issues that arise.

3. Monitor what your children do online, find websites together that are suitable for their age group and keep computers, iPads, phones etc. in areas of your home where you can keep an eye on what they are being used for.

4. Make use of the wide range of resources available online to help you and you children better understand your use of the internet.

5. Let your children know that they should always report any problems or moments where they feel uncomfortable online to an adult they trust so they can get the help they need.

USEFUL RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

There are lots of useful resources that you can access to help you and your children to better understand E-safety in fun and interactive ways.

THINK U KNOW .co.uk

NSPCC

Childnet International

NetSmartzKids
A PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Mrs Valerie Hall, Head Teacher – Safeguarding, Designated leader for child protection

Mrs Hindson, Deputy Head Teacher – Designated deputy leader for safeguarding

Mrs Dacombe, KS1 Leader – Safeguarding

Mrs Carr, KS2 Leader – Designated teacher for safeguarding

Miss Boagey – E-Safety and computing co-ordinator