Online Safety

Advice for parents

Always remember!

1. Think before you click;
2. Never give out personal information;
3. Tell an adult straight away if something worries you;
4. Cover your webcam

Why should we think about online safety?

The internet plays a key role in all of our lives. For our children, it opens up amazing educational and social opportunities, giving them access to a whole world of information! Much of this will be accessed in school, using our iPads, chrome books, computers and interactive white-boards.
Whether they are using a school computer, a laptop or tablet at home, a games console or a mobile phone, our young children are increasingly accessing the internet whenever they can and wherever they are.
As we protect our children in the real world, staff and Governors at Thomas Johnson want to make sure they are safe in a digital world.

What does Thomas Johnson do?

- Online Safety is incorporated in all our Computing learning at Thomas Johnson.
- We promote Online Safety through our e-Safeguarding Policy, ratified by our Governors.
- We provide information to support parents at home, and send out alerts to parents and carers when these are brought to our attention.
- Our Online Safety lessons, which take place each year, teach children about staying safe with technology.
- We have provided a comprehensive list of useful websites and resources with this letter.

"I've seen animal cruelty, adults hitting kids"

- We address with parents and carers our concerns when their children inform us of materials they are accessing which are inappropriate e.g. if they are playing a game which is certified as suitable for children aged 12.
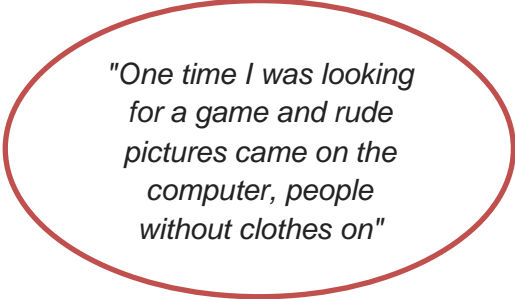
What can Parents and Carers do?

In most cases young people have positive experiences using the internet but we know that young children need guidance to keep themselves safe. Surveys show that many children have stumbled on something, by accident, which has deeply troubled them and they can never "un-see". It is therefore vital that we prepare them for their future online. As we do in school, you can work to lay the foundations for using technology safely at home in these ways.

- Ensure your child has appropriate internet content – for example, Facebook is for children of 13 and older, Fortnite is for children of 12 and older.

- Visit the Online safety websites available through our website.

- Teach your child how to deal with issues e.g. to tell you what they have seen, to talk about what "online friends" might be asking them to do.

"Facebook shows scary things even if you click on something that doesn't look or sound scary"

- Praise them for keeping you informed. Talk about a "good secret" (a birthday present) and a "bad secret" (something which hurts them or another person, or something which makes them feel sad, ashamed or frightened).

- Encourage your child to check with you before they share their personal information. Young children cannot judge the difference between a real life friend and an "online friend" (who they may never have actually seen). Teach them the risks and dangers of sharing information like this.

- Consider where you place your computer, allowing you to keep an eye on content and time spent with technology.

- Encourage other activities and sports!

- Use an app to restrict viewing time.

- Speak to us if you ever have any concerns or would like any advice.

- Talk to your child about what they are doing on-line and encourage them to be open about it.

- Surveys show that children and young teens are most worried about clicking on something and unexpectedly viewing pornography, violence and "something scary" - even though they were actually looking for something else!

"One time I was looking for a game and rude pictures came on the computer, people without clothes on"

*Please note – Quotes have not been supplied by TJLS children

Stay safe

Web sites on internet safety

Here are some useful websites linking to E-Safety. A synopsis of each website has been provided, as you may choose to use some with your children.

- http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk - An educational website designed specifically for young children, teachers and carers. Activities on this website can be enjoyed with your children, as well as information being provided to support parents.
- http://www.getsafeonline.org/ - A comprehensive website on internet safety for parents including a section on safeguarding children on the internet.
- http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/parents/ - An award winning website, providing useful information for parents as well as activities for children to enjoy and learn from.
- http://www.netsmartzkids.org/ - A vibrant and entertaining website, allowing children to be totally cool and show their friends how much they know about Internet safety by watching the video clips, reading the e-books and playing the games.
- http://www.att.com/Common/images/safety/game.html - Visit Safety Land, normally, a very nice place to live, but a nasty character is sending yucky emails and messages. Captain Broadband needs your help to find the nasty character. You need to navigate around Safety land answering questions. When you have answered them all correctly, the nasty character will be taken to jail and you'll become a certified hero, just like Captain Broadband.
- http://www.vodafone.com/content/parents/digital-parenting.html - The *Digital Parenting* website and magazines offer parents information and advice about the latest digital technologies and the kind of challenges children and teenagers might face in their digital world. Their Expert View articles, 'How to' guides and Take Action checklists will help you to stay up-to-date and feel more confident about getting involved with e-safety.
- https://www.net-aware.org.uk - From Facebook and Instagram to Snapchat and Tumblr, a simple no-nonsense guide for parents from NSPCC and O2 to the social media, apps and games that kids use!
- http://parentzone.org.uk/about-us - Parent Zone is devoted to providing expert information to families and schools. We find, curate and check the best available information on all of the issues that are caused or amplified by the internet.
- http://childnet.com - a non-profit organisation working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children.
- http://saferinternet.org.uk - e-safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe online.
- https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2017/08/06/digital-5-a-day/ - the **Digital 5 A Day** provides a simple framework that reflects the concerns of parents/ carers as well as children's behaviours and needs. It can also act as a base for family agreements about internet and digital device use throughout both the holidays and term time.
- https://www.internetmatters.org/ - Helping parents keep their children safe online.