Riverside Beckenham

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RIVERSIDE SCHOOL
Be All That You Can Be

Riverside St. Paul's Cray

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19th December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

E-Safety

Due to increased access to numerous different technology platforms, many children are at a greater risk of online grooming, cyber bullying and exposure to sexual content online.   At Riverside, we believe that E-Safety is a critical part of protecting the wellbeing and safety of our pupils online. We are writing to you today as we believe it is important for us to work in partnership with you as a parent, to keep pupils safe online and to tell you a bit more about how we keep your children safe in school.

Our E-Safety measures enable us to provide an environment for all our pupils to thrive, grow and learn, whilst staying safe online. We put these measures in place through policies and security provisions which safeguard pupils against unsuitable sites and content.

These policies include our **E-Safety Policy, Safeguarding Policy** and **Social Media Policy**, together with the **E-Safety Agreement: Parents/Carers and Privacy Notice**. These documents outline the proper use of technology for both pupils and staff. If any incidents breaching these policies occur, they are logged and managed in accordance with the relevant policy.

We have a number of procedures in place to ensure pupils cannot access unsuitable websites when using school technology, including London Grid for Learning internet filters which block websites with adult, violent or age-inappropriate content. Social media sites are not accessible except for access to school pages used within lessons and under supervision or controlled access to YouTube educational videos. It is not possible to filter everything on the World Wide Web, but we do have high levels of security in place to safeguard pupils and all internet access is closely supervised and monitored.

E-Safety is taught to all pupils as is appropriate and meaningful to them and all staff are required to undertake E-Safety training as part of their Safeguarding training to update their knowledge.

There are many ways you can help minimise the risks associated with children being online and increase E-Safety in your home – the list below provides ideas for some of the ways you can do this.

At a most basic level of E-Safety, it is vital that you, as parents and carers, equip yourselves with the tools to protect your child when they are using their devices or accessing content online. The websites outlined at the end of this letter can offer a wealth of information, support and step by step instructions on such things as how to put in place Parental Controls, recognise the risks associated with using the internet and materials you can use to support your child's understanding of safe internet use for a range of ages.

For some of our pupils it may be appropriate for you to:

Communicate to your child in a meaningful way about why it is important to stay safe online. Discussion with school staff can help you decide what information is appropriate, and how this can be communicated. 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 unpleasant material. It is important to

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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.

Discuss rules and set boundaries as is appropriate for being online, 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 conversations on loud 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 family 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.

Have the computer in a family room or in a supervised area if possible (especially for younger children).

If your child uses a mobile device/tablet or computer then **set parental controls** – however, do not rely solely on parental controls on devices, as they are not always 100 percent effective and many children know how to bypass them.

Make sure you know how to report or **'block' unsuitable content**, messages or people online.

If you would like to discuss the matter of E-Safety further, please contact **Clare Collett**, Riverside St Paul's Cray or **Sarah Stark**, Riverside Beckenham.

You can find a copy of our E-Safety Policy, Safeguarding Policy and Social Media Policy on our website www.riversideschool.org.uk.

For more information and guidance on ensuring your child's safety online, you can visit the websites below:

www.esafety-adviser.com
(sign up for free monthly e-safety newsletter)
www.childnet.com
www.internetmatters.org
www.thinkuknow.co.uk
www.nspcc.org.uk
www.getsafeonline.org

Yours sincerely,

S. Stark

Sarah Stark
Phase Leader, Riverside Beckenham.