Gaming

The internet has changed the way that young people play games. Games can be played against anyone in the world, at any time and for as long as you want.

Online, you can adventure in complex worlds, create characters, and meet and make friends to fight battles and go on journeys together.

Gaming is great fun, but just as with anything online, there are risks you should help your child navigate. It's important that you're involved in your child's experiences, even if it feels like a different world!

Check The Age Rating of the Game just like with films, you should check the game's age rating before allowing your child to play

Talk to them about the games they play. You might want to ask them:

What they like about it?

Which of their friends play it?

Who are their friends in the game?

To tell you about their character and profile.

Set Boundaries

Some online games are virtual worlds which never end, where missions can take hours to complete. It's important to set limits on the amount of time your child spends playing online. Be aware of how long they spend gaming and set rules, as you would for TV. Also, ensure that they take regular screen breaks – at least five minutes every 45- 60 minutes.

Things can go wrong when gaming, whether that's someone being mean, inappropriate or asking you to do something that you're not comfortable with. It's important that you and your child know what steps you can take in the game to block and report people and how to report and seek support from other services

Mobile phones

Mobile phones are allowed in the Academy. However they should only be used at break or lunchtimes and never in changing rooms or toilets. ***Here are some tips to keep your child safe:***
Parental settings – some mobile phone service providers allow you to set certain controls over your child's phone.
Loopholes – even if you have set controls, your child may be accessing the internet through other sources. Accessing someone else's Wi-Fi may mean that your safety settings no longer apply.
Set a pin code on your child's phone – Without a password, others may use your child's phone.
Set boundaries and monitor usage – You can set rules with them about where it is used and how long for. For example, if you don't want them to use it at night, why not only charge it overnight in the living room?
Discuss what they can share – teach your child to think before they share online and the consequence of doing this over the mobile phone, such as sharing their location.
Discuss and monitor costs – Your child should be made aware of the financial responsibility that comes with owning a phone.
Keep their mobile number private – young people need to understand that their phone number should only be given to people they know and trust, make sure that if they are concerned, they ask you first.

Designated Safeguard Lead

    Mr. Michael Few

    Assistant Principal

Deputy Safeguarding Leader

    Ms. Vickie Spawton

And the Deputy Safeguard Team

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E−Safety leaflet Advice for Parents 11-13 Year olds

Grace Academy

We hope this leaflet will provide all the information you need to keep your family safe on-line

Tel: 02476 589 000

Learn about:

Teach your child some simple rules

- Make sure your child knows not to share personal information like their phone number or email address online

- Only talk to real life friends or family on social media sites and in chatrooms

- Use privacy settings wherever they exist to keep their information private

- Don't arrange to meet people in real life that they've only talked to online

- Use secure and legal sites to download music and games

- Check attachments and pop ups for viruses before they click or download anything

- Use Public Friendly Wi-Fi when they're out and about to filter inappropriate content

- Don't post things online that they wouldn't want you to see

Talk about:

Tips for a meaningful conversation

- Ask them for advice on how to do something online and use this as a conversation starter

- Make sure they know they can come to you if they're upset by something they've seen online

- Be sensitive and praise them when they share their online experiences with you

- Make sure they know how to block abusive comments and report content that worries them

- If your child comes to you with an issue, stay calm and listen without judging them

- Tackle peer pressure by explaining that if they are talked into bullying someone online or sending inappropriate images it may get reported to their school or even the police

- Teach them to treat others as they'd like to be treated online and set a good example with your own internet use

Checklist

☑ **Put yourself in control**

Make use of the parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices, including your child's mobile phone. You can find out how at your broadband or mobile network provider's website. Find out how to setup safe search in Google by going to google.co.uk/ safetycentre.

☑ **Agree boundaries**

Have a family agreement about where they can use the internet, how much time they can spend online, the sites they can visit and the type of information they can share.

☑ **Check if it's suitable**

The age ratings that come with games, apps, films and social networks are a good guide to whether they're suitable for your child. The minimum age limit is 13 for several social networking sites, including Facebook and Instagram.

☑ **Get them clued up about social networking**

Talk to children about the benefits and risks of social networking before they join any sites. Let them know that anything they upload, email or message could stay around forever online.

☑ **Get them to analyse information**

Help them to be critical of things they see online and judge the quality and reliability of online sources.