South Hunsley Partnership

Online Safety and Social Media Agreement

Introduction:

This document has been put together by the South Hunsley Partnership of schools to provide a clear and consistent approach to online safety across the whole South Hunsley community.

This document should be considered in conjunction with each partnership school's Codes of Conduct, Acceptable Use Agreements and other relevant Online Safety documents.

Aims:

This document aims to:
- Highlight the potential dangers of online activities
- Provide information and advice on how to stay safe online
- Summarise how eSafety is covered in schools
- Encourage the safe and responsible use of social media and online resources both inside and outside of school

The Key Mantra:

You can go a long way towards staying safe online by using the mantra from the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) which is:

Zip IT, Block IT, Flag IT

- **Zip it - keep your personal information private and think about what you say and do online**
- **Block it - block people who send you nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments**
- **Flag it - flag up with someone you trust if anything upsets you or if someone asks to meet you offline**

A link to the UKCCIS can be found below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis

Roles and Responsibilities:

Schools:
- To adhere to the staff code of conduct and acceptable use policies
- To monitor use of the school network
- To educate and train pupils, staff and parents / carers with regards to online safety
- To report misuse of any kind to the relevant authorities when appropriate

Parents / Carers:
- To adhere to the school's acceptable use policy
- To ensure their children are aware of potential dangers online (e.g. follow the basic mantra of zip it, block it, flag it)
- To be positive role-models by using the internet responsibly and legally

Pupils:
- To adhere to the school's acceptable use policy
- To learn how to keep themselves safe when using the internet
- To follow the basic mantra of zip it, block it, flag it
- To understand the importance of staying safe when using devices out of school as well as in school

Online and eSafety Education:

Schools make sure that all pupils develop an awareness of how to keep themselves safe online by making 'eSafety' a key component of their curriculum. Every pupil in every year group will receive a relevant and age-appropriate education which will give them the tools to ensure that they stay safe online.

Further curriculum details can be found on each individual school's website.

General Online and Social Media Advice:

It is always worth remembering for ourselves and reminding our children that '**Nothing on Social Media is Truly Private'**. Even with platforms who claim that posts 'disappear' after a set time, it is still possible for screen-shots to be taken and posted on without consent. The following bullets are worth adhering to in order to prevent actions that might result in potentially life-changing repercussions:

- Don't post derogatory, defamatory, offensive, harassing or discriminatory content
- Don't breach copyright, data protection or other relevant legislation
- Consider the appropriateness of the content of posts (including any links you include) with regards to the likely audience of the post
- Don't use social media to air private grievances (NB Nothing on social media is truly private)
- Never email or post when you are feeling angry (posts and emails cannot be unsent). Wait until you are calm before attempting to resolve your issue and even then consider a face to face option (without 'human' aspects such as facial expressions, body language and tone of voice emails and posts can be easily misinterpreted).
- Don't make comments, post content or link materials that will bring a school into disrepute. **If you have a grievance with a school then make contact with the school and tell them about it. Your issue will never be resolved unless the school is made aware of it.**

Further advice with regards to your general online activity:
- Check your settings regularly and test your privacy
- Use different passwords and change them every 6 months
- If you are unsure about the source of an email that you have received then do not open it
- Know how to report any issues or concerns

Age Appropriateness:

Although there is often no legal basis for the age restrictions given to games, APPs and films, it is always worth considering these guidelines when deciding what is and isn't appropriate for your children. It is worth taking particular note of free APPs which can be full of regular 'pop-up' adverts, and while the APP may be age appropriate, there is no guarantee that the adverts are.

Throughout the partnership schools we are dealing with more and more issues which directly relate to pupils accessing APPs and games which are not age appropriate. Games like Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto are regularly played by children as young as primary age (including some examples of children as young as five). The adult themes, actions and language within these games are then being discussed and sometimes mimicked in the playground. The long-term effects of exposure to such games at such a young age can only be assumed.

Other seemingly harmless platforms such as You Tube can also pose unexpected issues. Even in restricted mode, searches can pull up seemingly innocent content which on further scrutiny can turn out to be wholly inappropriate. Schools are also finding that more and more children are setting up their own You Tube channels, posting images and videos of themselves and their peers for the world to view. Whilst it would be wrong for us to discourage this completely, it is the duty of every member of this community to ensure we play our part in giving our children the relevant eSafety tools so that if they do choose this avenue for a hobby (or indeed in the future for a potential career) that they have the ability to do so safely.

Online Safety Resources:

On every school website you will find links to a whole range of 'Online Safety' resources. Here are a few examples of sites that provide useful help and advice for parents / carers, staff and pupils:

Think U Know:
https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/

Safety Net Kids:
http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/

Internetmatters:
https://www.internetmatters.org/

NSPCC Online Safety:
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Digital Parenting:
http://vodafonedigitalparenting.co.uk/