


Thornton Primary School

Thornton Road
Ward End
Birmingham
B8 2LQ

Tel: 0121 327 0824

Headteacher: Mrs Sue Simmons
e-mail: enquiry@thornton.bham.sch.uk
www.thornton.bham.sch.uk
 @ThorntonOwls

4th October 2017

E-safety letter to parents

Dear parents,

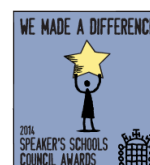
Due to increased access to numerous different technology platforms, many children are at a greater risk of online grooming, cyber bullying and exposure to sexual content online. At Thornton, we believe that e-safety is a critical part of protecting the wellbeing and safety our pupils online. We are writing 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.

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 **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, E-Safety Policy, Social Media Policy, Acceptable Use Agreement and Parent, Staff and Pupil Codes of Conduct**, which 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 children cannot access unsuitable websites when using school technology, including software which blocks all websites with adult, violent or age-inappropriate content. Social media sites are also blocked, unless they are school pages used within lessons and under supervision. E-safety is taught to all pupils not only during IT lessons but at any appropriate point when pupils are using technology, and staff are required to undertake e-safety 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.



- **Talk** to your children about why it is important to stay safe online. 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 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** for being online and draw them up together, 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 conversation on 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 then set **parental controls** – do this as a dialogue with your child so they are aware of what they are not allowed to view; however, do not rely on parental controls on devices, as they are not always 100 percent effective and many children know how to bypass them.
- Make sure your child knows how to report or ‘block’ unsuitable content, messages or people online – show them how to block on the websites they frequently use and explain that they can always tell you, a teacher or another adult.

If you would like to discuss the matter of e-safety in greater depth, please do not hesitate to speak to your child’s class teacher or a member of the senior leadership team.

You can find a copy of our Safeguarding and Child protection policy, our E-Safety Policy and our Social Media Policy under the Safeguarding tab on the school website and we can arrange for a paper copy of these if you ask at Reception.

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

- www.childnet.com
- www.internetmatters.org
- www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- www.nspcc.org.uk
- www.getsafeonline.org

Yours sincerely,

Sue Simmons,
Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead.

