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engage and promote success

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Keeping children safe online during COVID-19

Dear Parents/Carers

Due to significant changes in education and our approach to learning we would like to offer support in regards to working online and working safely online.

We appreciate the demands of online education and the adaptations students are making to their learning, however, it is imperative that all students know how to stay safe online. Online safety has been explicitly taught to all students at Maplewell Hall School and students should follow the same conduct at home as they do at school.

To support you to keep your child safe online we have put together some guidance on how to manage online learning and how to keep your child safe while using internet.

Creating a family agreement

A family agreement is a great way to start a conversation with your whole family about how you all use the internet. As you have everyone at home, it is a fantastic way to set boundaries and discuss how you are all going to use technology during this time. Where is tech going to be used in your home? How are you going to share it and what times of the day can different family members have access? It is also a great way to discuss how to behave online and talk about what happens if something upsets or worries your child.

As a parent or carer, the best tool to support your child in leading a happy and safe life online is open conversation.

Getting advice and guidance if something goes wrong

As young people spend more time online there is also an increase in the chances they will see something online, which is not intended for them. Whether this is fake news and impersonation, or mean comments, there are many places you can go for help and advice on how to report this behaviour. Together as a family you can also help prepare your children and build their critical thinking skills.



Making a report

reportharmfulcontent.com is a website designed to help you report anything which you believe shouldn't be online, with guidance about how to report different types of content as well as help with the next steps you can take if your report isn't actioned by the site or service you have made it on.

Speaking to someone

For young people - depending on the age of your child there are a range of places they can go for help. For younger children they can [call Childline](#) for help and support, and for older children [The Mix](#) offer free and practical advice.

For parents and carers - [The O2 and NSPCC helpline](#) can help you with any questions or concerns you may have about keeping your child safe online; they can provide you with advice and help to troubleshoot any problems your family may be facing.

Other useful links for support

- The [Professionals Online Safety Helpline](#) (for educators or professionals)
- [Thinkyouknow](#) (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online)
- [Internet matters](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Parent info](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [LGfL](#) (support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online)
- [Net-aware](#) (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)

Kind regards

Mr Craig Palmer
Head of IT