

# Pike Fold's E-Safety Newsletter

## Information for parents/carers

### What is e-Safety?

The Internet and related technologies, including mobile phones, blogs, podcasting and social networks are becoming increasingly important in the daily lives of our children and have many positive benefits. They can be used both educationally and socially and are becoming part of a child's identity. Socially our children often use the Internet for entertainment, interaction and communication with 'friends'. Access to the Internet can take place anywhere and at anytime so we need to make sure our children are able to

use the Internet safely.

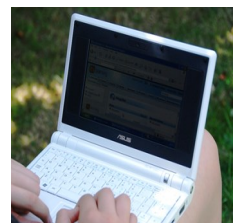
E-Safety is concerned with safeguarding children (and adults!) in the digital world.

It is about learning to understand and use new technologies in a positive way.

It is not about restricting children, but educating them about the risks as well as the benefits so they can feel confident and happy online.

As you would protect

your child in the real world, you will want to make sure that they are safe whatever they are doing. Like learning to cross the road, online safety skills are skills for life. If your child understands the risks they can make sensible and informed choices online, they can get the most from the Internet and stay safe whilst doing it.



### Pike Fold Primary and e-Safety

All children at Pike Fold take part in e-Safety activities over the year. And it fully integrated in the Computing Scheme of Work. Children from Year 1 will be taught how to go on the Internet in a safe way and encourage them to talk to someone

if they are worried. With the help of Hector, Lee and Kim, Jason, Sunil and Ali (www.thinkuknow.co.uk) the children will watch videos, take part in class discussions and complete different activities to ensure they are safe

online. Children will also become aware of the SMART rules (see inside for details.)



Julie McKeever - Deputy Head  
Pike Fold Primary School

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### Special points of interest:

- ☺ What is e-Safety?
- ☺ Pike Fold's approach
- ☺ How can I keep my child safe online?
- ☺ Social Media
- ☺ Think SMART
- ☺ Talk to your child =
- ☺ PEGI

### Inside this issue:

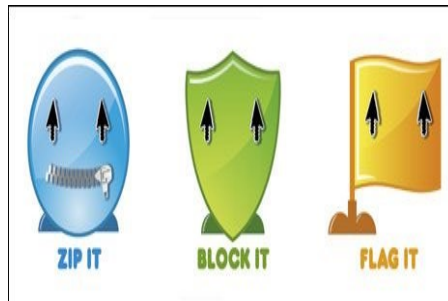
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# How can I keep my children safe online?

You don't need to be an expert to make a difference!:

- **Talk to your children** about their Internet use. Your involvement is the best way of keeping them safe.
- **Be Positive!** The Internet is a fantastic resource for learning, communication and having fun. Just like in the real world, you need to take sensible precautions.

- **Try not to overreact!** This could simply make your child secretive about their Internet use and make it harder to talk.



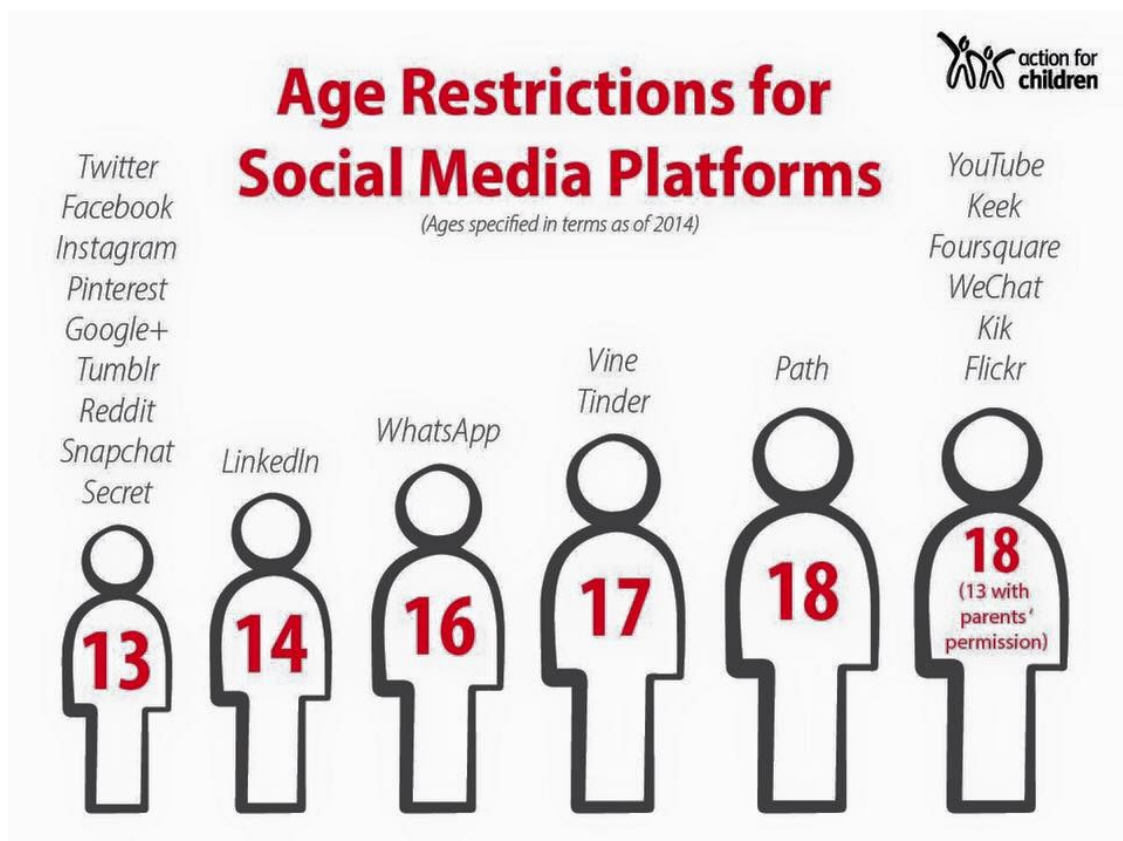
- Remember that this **safety advice** also applies to going online with a mobile phone.
- If possible **locate** computers in a family room.

## Social Media

Social Networking is hugely popular. Many young people are sophisticated in their use of social media apps and websites, tailoring their communication for different audiences and

accessing them from a range of devices including smartphones, tablets and games consoles. There are age restrictions for the platforms, please see the picture below. The

NSPCC Netaware website can be found at [www.net-aware.org.uk/](http://www.net-aware.org.uk/) This is a great resource to keep you up-to-date with the digital world.



## Think SMART

If you start by telling your child never to do something most children will ask "why not?" and then try to find out! Discussing the potential dangers with your children therefore needs care and sensitivity and involves helping them to see for themselves how they might get into difficulty. Most children will respond more positively if you encourage them to be SMART or "Cool" on the Internet rather than giving them a list of "Dos and don'ts"! The following SMART TIPS have been written especially for children aged 8-14 years.

- **SAFE** - Staying safe involves being careful and not giving out your name, address, mobile phone no., school name or password to people online.
- **MEETING** someone you have contacted in cyberspace can be dangerous. Only do so with your parent's/carer's permission, and then when they can be present.
- **ACCEPTING** e-mails or opening files from people you don't really know or trust can get you into trouble - they may contain viruses or nasty messages.
- **RELIABLE** - Someone online maybe lying about who they are, and information you find on the Internet may not be reliable.
- **TELL** your parent or carer if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried.



## Talking to your child about staying safe online

Talking to your child—openly and regularly is the best way to help keep them safe online.

**Explore sites and apps together**—Talk about what might be OK for children of different ages. Ask your child what sites or apps they like and look at them together.. Be positive about what you see but also open about concerns you have.

**Ask about things they might see online which make them**

**feel uncomfortable.**

**Talk about how they can stay safe on social networks**—ask your child if they know where the reporting functions are, how to block someone and how to keep information private.

**Reassure them that you won't overreact**—you're just looking out for them. Explain that you understand the Internet is great place to be you're just looking out for them.

**Be share aware: talk about what's OK, and not OK, to share online.** Talk to your child about what 'personal information' is. Explain simple ways to protect privacy. Discuss images and photos

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Where Stars Sparkle...



If I can help with anything contained in this leaflet or guide you in the right direction please do not hesitate to contact me.

Useful websites:

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

[www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)

[www.childnet-int.org](http://www.childnet-int.org)

[www.netaware.org.uk](http://www.netaware.org.uk)

[www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

## PEGI—Pan European Game Information

The PEGI labels appear on front and back of the packaging indicating one of the following age levels: 3, 7, 12, 16 and 18. They provide a reliable indication of the suitability of the game content in terms of protection of minors. The age rating does not take into account the difficulty level or skills required to play a game.

PEGI provides advice regarding the age suitability of a game. Here are a few tips:

Always look for the age classification on the game package or via a search engine.

Try to look for a summary or review of the game content or ideally play the game yourself first.

Play video games with your children, watch over them

when they play and talk with them about the games they play. Explain why certain games are not suitable.

Be aware that online games sometimes enable the download of extra software that can alter the game content and eventually the age classification of the game.

Online games are usually played in virtual communities requiring players to interact with unknown fellow players. Tell your children not to give out personal details and report inappropriate behaviour.

Set the limits by using the parental control tools of the game console or pc.

