 **Freeland Internet Safety Tips 2016 **

**Playing Games**

* Check age ratings of bought/downloaded games
* Join in – ask questions about the game, why they like it, who uses it at school, who can you talk to, who are their friends in the game?
* Know who you're playing with
* Club Penguin, Moshi’s, Movie Star Planet and others enable players to chat - Do primary school children need to chat?
* Never share personal information

**Games consoles also allow you to set parental controls**

* **Xbox**<http://support.xbox.com/en-US/xbox-360/security/xbox-live-parental-control>
* **PlayStation**<http://manuals.playstation.net/document/en/ps3/current/basicoperations/parentallock.html>
* **Wii**<http://en-americas-support.nintendo.com/app/answers/landing/p/604/c/631>

**Safety Tip:** *Remember that messages and talking (headsets) happen - not just gameplay. Keep the console within a family space if possible and let your child know they can come to you if anything upsets them.*

**Making Friends**

* Know who their online friends are – they can have access to your child’s personal information
* Real world has Stranger Danger
* Online has Virtual Stranger Danger **- there are even more risks here!**
* Have a list of ‘friends’ or ‘buddies’ - They can see when online and start conversations

**Talking on the Internet**

* Many ways to 'talk' online – Email; Instant Messaging; Webcams (Skype); Chat Rooms
* Instant text chat between two or more people is private un-moderated chat
* Sometimes chat rooms are moderated but not often and not well enough

**Safety Tip:** *Make sure you're happy with who you child can 'talk' to; only be friends with people online that they are friends with in the real world.* ***Do they really need to enter online chatting at all?***

**Searching**

* Easy for *anyone* to stumble across things that might upset or disturb them. Children are naturally curious without actually being untrustworthy

**Safety Tip:** *Turn on SafeSearch from Google. Encourage children to tell you if they see anything that upsets them online, because you can help them.*

**Smartphones**

* Most modern phones are actually mini computers, used for everything a PC or laptop can do – ask your ISP (BT etc..) and Service Provider (O2 etc..) about Parental Controls

**Safety Tip:** *If you need peace of mind then buy your primary school child a standard mobile - not a smartphone.*

**YouTube**

* Some content can be inappropriate; there is no true age check of the viewer
* Can be viewed on many types of device – Laptops, iPads, phones etc….

**Snapchat**

* App for iPhones, iPads and Android devices
* Allows senders to send photos. Users can send time limited photos that might be embarrassing/silly/hurtful knowing they will 'disappear‘

**Safety Tip:** *YouTube Safety Mode can easily be set to block inappropriate content and comments.*

**Facebook & Instagram**

* **The age limit for Facebook and Instagram is 13 years old.** The system is easily tricked, any age can be entered
* These sites share incredible amounts of information, allow unmonitored conversations with their ‘friends’ and potentially provide contact with people they don’t know

**Safety Tip:** *If your child is already an underage user, revisit their profile with them and ask your child why they need Facebook and try to work through another way to communicate with 'friends'.*

**The Risks**

* **Cyberbullying** – can be 24 hours a day, not just at school
* **Grooming** – used by people with inappropriate interest in children; to engage with them in acts over the internet or in person.
* **Inappropriate** **websites** – the Internet is wide-open and not centrally moderated
* **Viruses/Security**- cybercrime is big business. The use of technology to steal money and personal information

**Education**

* Get involved – find out about the games played and sites visited
* **Set some House Rules** around online time, where the laptop/PC is to be used, not sharing info and pictures, ensure your child can approach you if worried. Get their agreement.

**Parental Controls**

* To filter, set time limits, monitor and report. Windows/iPads/iPhone and more have free in-built controls. You can easily set them up.
* **All major ISPs offer Parental Controls free of charge – give them a call and ask!**

**Safety Tip:** *Turn your internet router off at night time. Be wary that parental controls will never make the internet 100% ‘safe’*

**Useful Websites… for Parents/Carers**

* <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Primary/> - find the latest information on the sites you like to visit, mobiles and new technology
* <https://www.getsafeonline.org/safeguarding-children/> - protect yourself and your devices from shopping, banking, social threats
* <http://www.internetmatters.org/> - a great website, easily to learn and navigate
* <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> - Safety advice from NSPCC

**Tools to help… for Parents/Carers**

* **How to configure Google SafeSearch**

[http://](http://www.google.com/safetycenter/families/start/) [www.google.com/familysafety/tools](http://www.google.com/familysafety/tools)

* **How to configure YouTube Safety Mode**

[http://www.google.com/safetycenter/families/start/#set-a-filter-to-keep-inappropriate-content-out](http://www.google.com/safetycenter/families/start/)

* **How to configure Windows Parental Controls**

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/set-parental-controls>

* **How to configure Restrictions (iPad, iPhones etc..)**

<http://support.apple.com/kb/ht4213>