Woodthorne Primary School

eSafety Safety Newsletter   March 2022

What does eSafety look like at Woodthorne?

eSafety (or Online Safety) is one of the most important subjects we teach in Computing lessons.

Understanding how to keep ourselves safe on the internet is one of our newest most important life skills. Our grandparents and even our parents didn't need to worry about this but now eSafety is one of the most talked about subjects.

How do we teach eSafety at Woodthorne?

eSafety at Woodthorne is taught in two different subjects, Computing and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education). In Computing, eSafety is a 4 - 6 lesson topic covered in every year group. This is an age-appropriate subject targeted to each year group to provide children with the skills and the savvy to use the internet safely. We complete this subject on Purple Mash, using different localised online services to practice our safety skills.
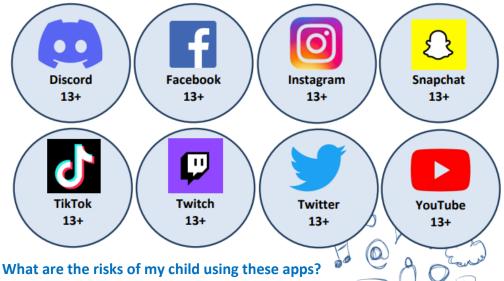
In PSHE, we use a talk-based approach away from the computers or iPads to discuss keeping ourselves safe on the internet. Children create posters, mind-maps and presentations to share information about keeping safe on the internet.

By the time children reach Year 6, they are veritable experts!

If you have any questions about eSafety at Woodthorne, please contact Mrs Wong at woodthorneprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Social Media Apps

What age should my child be able to use these apps?

Discord 13+   Facebook 13+   Instagram 13+   Snapchat 13+

TikTok 13+   Twitch 13+   Twitter 13+   YouTube 13+

What are the risks of my child using these apps?

Whilst there are benefits to being online, there are risks too regardless of your child's age. Risks include your child viewing inappropriate content, sharing personal information, cyberbullying and grooming.

Reporting Functions

If your child is using any of the above apps then make sure you show them how to use the reporting facilities within each app and ensure your child knows that they must tell you or another trusted adult if they see anything upsetting online. Use the apps together and explore the different security and privacy settings.

Further information

Is your child too young to use the above apps but is still asking you if they can join social media? Then you could suggest an alternative option. Internet Matters list several apps that have been created for younger children, they are grouped for ages 6 – 10 and ages 11 – 13.

https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids/

Net Aware provide further information about the most popular apps, games and social media sites:

https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/

Focus on: Snapchat

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is an app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.**

How does it work?

Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time period eg 10 seconds. Users can also upload snaps to stories which then disappear after 24 hours.

What should I be aware of?

- **Who your child is friends with** – talk to your child about who they are friends with and why it is safer to be friends with only those they know in real life.
- **Group chats** – in a group chat there may be people that they are not friends with on the app who can then communicate with them in the group. This increases the risk of interacting with strangers.
- **Snap Map** – The map lets users see where 'friends' are. Location sharing via the map is optional and it is off by default (we recommend it stays off).
- **Snapchat streaks** – Streaks count how many consecutive days two people have been sending Snaps to each other, this can increase pressure to respond daily.
- **Inappropriate content** – due to the nature of the app, your child may come across content that is inappropriate.
- **Screenshots** – whilst Snaps disappear, users may take screenshots before they do, potentially resulting in them losing control of what they have shared as it could be sent to other people.
- **Bullying** – there is a risk of bullying on all platforms so please ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary.
  - https://snap.com/safety/safety-reporting/
  - https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/a/remove-block-friends

Safety Tips

It is important to talk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and make sure they know that they should always talk to you or an other trusted adult if they have concerns. **Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary.** We would recommend you explore Snapchat with your child and suggest why certain options are safer, for example, setting your account so only friends (rather than anyone) can see your content and only those you are friends with can contact you.

- https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/article/privacy-settings2

Creating Strong Passwords

We need to create passwords for everything these days and it's important that our children not only understand that they shouldn't share passwords with others but also that they know how to create a 'strong' password to keep their information safe. Learn more here:

https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/how-to-create-strong-passwords-online/

MONKEY (RATED 18+)

This is a website and app (available only on google play) that allows users to make video calls to strangers. This is a very concerning app/website which has highly inappropriate content on it. The following link provides further information about it:

https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2021/07/06/safeguarding-alert-monkey-web/

We recommend not talking about this app/website by name with your child, so it doesn't lead to your child searching for it out of interest. Instead, talk to your child about what they are doing online and if they have any concerns.

What if someone posts a photo of your child on social media?

What can you do if somebody posts a photo of your child on social media? The UK Safer Internet Centre explores this question:

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/help-%E2%80%93-someone-else-posted-photo-my-child-social-media