



Bredon Hill Academy

Safeguarding and Wellbeing Newsletter



Safeguarding Our Children Together

No. 3
Autumn Term
2020

Welcome to the third edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter. With our pupils spending an increasing amount of time on an electronic device, we would like to share with you some useful information with you about how to keep you and your family safe online.

We recently carried out a hands up survey with some of our students asking them:

“Do your grown ups have an app that allows them to monitor your device use?”

The results showed that only 17% of pupils surveyed were aware of an app their parents had that monitored/controlled their device usage. We are aware that this is a topic that divides many of us, however in recent months we have seen an increase in potential grooming cases due to lockdown and increased vulnerability of some families and young people. Monitoring electronic device usage plays an extremely important role in keeping young people safe online.

Parental Control Apps

Many parents and carers monitor their child’s device use in ways which suit and work for them. Research shows that having an open and honest relationship with your child about what they do online is the best way to keep them safe, however Parental Control Apps can support this by allowing parents and carers to both monitor and restrict what is downloaded on to a device, limit screen time and even check messages. Some of the following apps have been recommended to us:

Google Family Link:



Kidslox:



Qustodio:



BBC Panorama: Is TikTok Safe?

Whilst many of us support the safe use of Social Media, there are some platforms that are more dangerous than others. The Chinese based app TikTok (banned in some countries) has been subject to a BBC Panorama investigation as many of its users can get exposed to violent, pornographic and age-inappropriate videos through clever use of artificial intelligence. Although videos can often be playful and funny to watch, users have very little control over what content is shared with them and within seconds content can very quickly become inappropriate. To watch the full episode on the BBC iPlayer, click on the following link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b006t14n/panorama>

****REMINDER, AGE RESTRICTION ON TIKTOK IS 13****

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs K Dunkley

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Miss D West and Mr S Timpson

As a Force we are receiving complaints about school children congregating after school and hanging around in groups. We appreciate that schools will have already sent this out but could we ask that children are reminded to disperse quickly and avoid being in groups.

We are fully appreciative that there will be large numbers of pupils leaving at the end of each day and that it can take a while for them to spread out on their way home. If they do want to stop at local shops on their way home they should follow social distancing guidelines and wear a mask unless they are exempt.

REMOTE EDUCATION 10 TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For parents and carers, remote education isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote education experience.

1. TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

As a parent or carer, your school may have explained how remote education works already, but children may still need help. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S COMMUNICATION AND ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



3. ESTABLISH A DAILY SCHEDULE AND ROUTINE

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4. ENCOURAGE SCREEN BREAKS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AWAY FROM DEVICES

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks; however, it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5. ENSURE YOUR LEARNING DEVICE IS IN PUBLIC SPACE IN THE HOME

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral, with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



6. IMPLEMENT SAFETY CONTROLS AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS ON APPS AND SOFTWARE

Dependant on how your school implements remote education, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7. ENSURE YOUR CHILD ONLY USES OFFICIAL SCHOOL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8. FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH RELEVANT SCHOOL POLICIES

Schools should have a policy on remote education that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



9. MAINTAIN FEEDBACK WITH TEACHERS

Engage in communication with teachers where possible, and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Remote education will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as they can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends every day might take its toll.

