Thames View Infants

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Dear Parents/Carers,

ICT Home – School Agreement

At Thames View Infants we embrace technology. All of our children are taught to use ICT and the internet safely and responsibly – this is an integral part of their learning. We find that this extra resource enriches our provision, adds an exciting tool for our children use when learning, and overall helps them achieve even better results!

However, children and young people need the help and support of school – and parents - to recognise and avoid e-safety risks and to build upon their resilience.

The Internet contains material that can harm children if left unsupervised: inappropiate age-related content, prejudice, racism, sexism, homophobia, violence, terror and illegal content of an extremist nature (either religious or political), which undermines our core values as British Citizens. Unsupervised or "uneducated" access to the internet can put children at risk from "bullying" or even "grooming" via email/text/chat clients. The main educational providers try to 'filter' known offensive locations of material of this kind, but there is too much for this filtering to be completely effective, and the locations change frequently. Blocking access to this kind of material by having a restricted range of pages available can also be problematic. An alternative system is to educate pupils and parents about e-Safety and encourage an Acceptable Use Policy and partnership between home and school to ensure children remain safe.

Together, therefore, it is important that we ensure that our children are as safe as possible when using this type of technology and teach them – like in all other aspects of life – to be safe and to share with an adult when things "aren't right".

We're a PAPERLESS School – so you <u>must</u> download & register your ParentMail App to receive e-newsletters, to book after-school clubs & Parents' meetings or to confirm consent for educational visits.

Accordingly, we all have a duty to:

1. protect our children from on-line bullying, inappropiate age-related content, prejudice, racism, sexism, homophobia, religious or political extremism, violence, terrorism and on-line grooming.

2. teach children how to be safe, monitor their on-line useage, support them when they require help and be a good role model.

3. ensure children do not use their technologies excessively, unsupervised and without clear boundaries/time-frames and with consequences if rules are broken.

4. agree to a "code of conduct" (an Acceptable Use Policy) for internet use.

We have a set of rules which our children adhere to, both at school *and* at home, and we need our parents/carers to ensure that children understand these guidelines and that they stick to them.

ICT including the internet, e-mail and mobile technologies is becoming more and more of an integral part of society and it's important that we work *together* to ensure that our children grow up knowing how to use all of this technology safely and confidently. We have designed this agreement to highlight our commitment to ensuring your child's safety in partnership with yourselves.

If you have any concerns, or would like discuss this matter any further, please come in and speak to us.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Jordan
Headteacher

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Parent/Carer Acceptable Use Agreement Form for Home-Use Device

Parents agree to abide by the following rules:

A. I will encourage my child to adopt safe use of the internet and digital technologies at home and will inform the school if I have concerns over my child's safety.
B. I will not tell my child their password nor allow them to download any apps.
C. I will ensure that my chosen site engine has "strict" filtering set. If my internet provider allows it, I will activate Parental Controls.
D. I understand that the school will take every reasonable precaution, including monitoring and filtering systems, to ensure that young people will be safe when they use the internet and ICT systems. I also understand that I must do the same at home.
E. I understand that at school, my child's activity will be monitored and that the school will contact me if they have concerns about any possible breaches of the Acceptable Use Policy. For example, staff will check files in order to ensure that there is nothing saved on that device that is inappropriate, including photographs, pictures, age in appropriate applications, etc. Staff will also monitor the internet sites that children visit, or have visited, on their ICT devices.
F. I understand that I must actively monitor my child's use of their device and internet access too.
G. I understand that an i-pad does not substitute a meaningful conversation with an engaged adult.
H. I understand that unrestricted i-pad use can harm a child and cause obsessive behaviours.
I. I understand that children should not be allowed to use i-pads/computers for any longer than 45 minutes at a time and no longer than one hour every day.
J. I understand that children should not be allowed to use their i-pads/computers after a reasonable hour (depending on the child's age) on school nights. After this time a responsible adult must look after the device until the next day.
K. I understand that children should not have access to Facebook / Instagram / Twitter and any other social media applications that are not age appropriate. Any applications of this nature will be removed from any i-pads / tablets taken into school. I understand that allowing children to access age-inappropriate material is regarded as a safeguarding matter and will be reported as such.
L. I will support the school in reinforcing the School's online rules:

This is how we stay safe when we use computers:

Parents agree to share the following rules with their children and ensure that their children understand them:

1. I can only use the Internet (at school or at home) if my parent's agree.
2. I must ask permission from a member of staff before using the Internet in school.
3. At school I can only use the computers at break and at lunch times if a teacher is nearby.
4. I must keep my logins and passwords secret.
5. I am responsible for taking care of the computers and ICT equipment.
6. I must ask for help from a teacher, or other suitable adult, if I am unsure what to do or if I think that I might have done something wrong.
7. I must not look at other people's files without their permission.
8. At home I am only allowed to answer a Facetime call or reply to a text / chat message/ e-mail (at home) if my parents/carers agree – and never at school (unless it's part of a lesson).
9. I will only use the school's computers for schoolwork and homework.
10. At home I will only send messages that are polite and sensible

11. I am only allowed to delete my own files.
12. I know that people at school will never call, text, chat or e-mail me, whether in school or outside of school (unless part of a lesson).
13. I will never give out personal information – such as my name, address, phone number, e-mail etc. I will not send photographs or videos to people that I do not know or trust – including when texting or chatting with others.
14. If I see anything that I am unhappy with, or if I receive a message that I do not like, I should ignore it and tell a teacher / responsible adult.
15. The same rules for "being kind" to each other apply to when calling, texting, chatting or e-mailing with others. If someone is unkind, I must tell an adult straight away.
16. If I find anything that is not nice or unkind on the Internet, I must sensibly exit the screen / turn the monitor off and tell an adult straight away.
17. I know that if I break the rules, I might not be allowed to use a computer / tablet device in school.