WORK TOGETHER, AIM HIGH, SHINE BRIGHT

BRIDEKIRK DOVENBY SCHOOL
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Cumbria
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Headteacher: Mrs J. E. Fish
Thursday 2nd March 2023

Online Information for Parents & Carers - March 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that you will find this information informative and that it will answer some of the questions you may have around online safety in school.

FILTERING & FIREWALLS

Our broadband is supplied by CCC and is filtered before it enters our building. It uses the school's IP address (addresses) to apply the appropriate domain / content CCC filters.

This filtering is the same across all schools and *FortiGate* is used to provide this background filtering at the highest level. Both the name of the search and the actual content are filtered. Sophos Anti-Virus Software is also applied to the broadband line before it enters the building.

Gemini are the company who support IT in the school. They visit us every two weeks, but we can request an appointment at any point if we have a concern; they are also able to access the computers remotely. We can also contact Cumbria IT support to make a request and ask for advice.

Pupils have a separate login from the staff and the parameters of the filter are slightly different; for example, teacher's logins can access restricted YouTube, but the pupils cannot.

All iPads in school use the school broadband and are filtered because the PROXY settings are turned on. The staff are aware of this and Gemini monitor and check the IPAD settings regularly. Each IPAD holds a licence so that they can all be controlled remotely from one device. Children are not able to download apps onto the iPads, only Gemini are able to do this if a request is made directly from a member of staff via me.

If an iPad is taken home obviously the school filters will not be applied. The same is true of our laptops. Parents of SEN children with their own allocated devices and parents borrowing a laptop from school are encouraged to set their parental controls at home so that content is filtered.

Staff phones, when used in school, should be connected to the school WIFI and not 4G so that when an internet search is carried out, on the school premises, the CCC filters are applied.

FIREWALLS

We have basic DrayTek routers which contain a firewall (security to protect against malware inside the building).

Gemini are currently providing a quote to protect our network at a higher level (think of levels of insurance bronze/ silver / gold), which the governors will then consider.

Malware - Malware is any software intentionally designed to cause disruption to a computer, server, client, or computer network, leak private information, gain unauthorised access to information or systems, deprive access to information, or which unknowingly interferes with the user's computer security and privacy.

VPN (virtual private network)

If a VPN is downloaded to someone's private profile and they log in to it this would compromise the CCC filters and could allow access to otherwise prohibited sites (gambling / social networking / Facebook / Tiktok etc). All staff and Gemini are aware of this and computers are monitored at all times. Fortunately, it is not something that happens, but we are aware of the possible potential. No child is left unsupervised on a computer and computers are used only for learning.

If we decided to upgrade our firewall this would help detect VPN's applied

Access to the Internet

Children are not expected to use the internet other than to access Seesaw, Accelerated Reader, Online Star Assessments, Freckle, and some of the computing links outlined within the curriculum e.g. Scratch / teach computing / barefoot computing - the link below will take you to the websites used during computing lessons.

https://bridekirkdovenbyceprimaryschool.secure-primarysite.net/computing/

No child is asked to send emails or contact anyone via email or messaging outside or inside school.

Online Safety as part of the taught curriculum

Online safety is taught through a variety of ways.

- It is addressed within whole school assemblies and special focus days - for example when the NSPCC come into school / Internet safety day / Anti Bullying day and through our whole school Jigsaw assemblies that may look at relationships, the world around us, health, differences etc.
- If an issue does arise somewhere in school then this may be addressed at an individual, class or whole school level. As professionals, we decide how to do this. Sometimes we will bring other experts in to school to talk to the children to reinforce the messages given. It will always be recorded on our CPOMS system in school and shared with parents.
- Online safety is taught throughout all lessons and is not just seen as part of the computing curriculum.
- Jigsaw lessons specifically address online safety as do myHappymind class assemblies.
- We have three platforms in school that are solely devoted to teaching online safety;
    1. Project Evolve https://projectevolve.co.uk/toolkit/ ,
    2. Be internet Legends https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_uk
    3. National Online Safety https://nationalonlinesafety.com/

All of this supports the document *Education for a Connected World* which must be delivered in schools. https://bridekirkdovenbyceprimaryschool.secure-primarysite.net/online-safety/ . More information can be found on the school website. Each week, all children, including those in reception, receive a computing lesson part of which will address online safety.

To support parents at home we have recently become full members of the National Online Safety portal which means that parents are now able to login and access a range of information. School can also flag specific articles for you to read. I have attached a letter which explains this to you and will help you login to the portal.

I have also attached a letter we were asked to disseminate about Child Centred Policing, please do try to look at this You will also see below the legal age children should be given access to various social media sites. When children are allowed to use these sites too soon, it can cause a variety of problems, often which have repercussions in school.

Thank you for reading this information sheet; I hope that it has been helpful. If you require any further information please do contact me via the office or admin email address.

Kindest regards,

Julia. E. Fish

Mrs. Julia. E. Fish

Social Media Site	Age rating
Facebook	13+
Snapchat	13+
TikTok	13+
Instagram	13+
WhatsApp	16+