

Online Safety

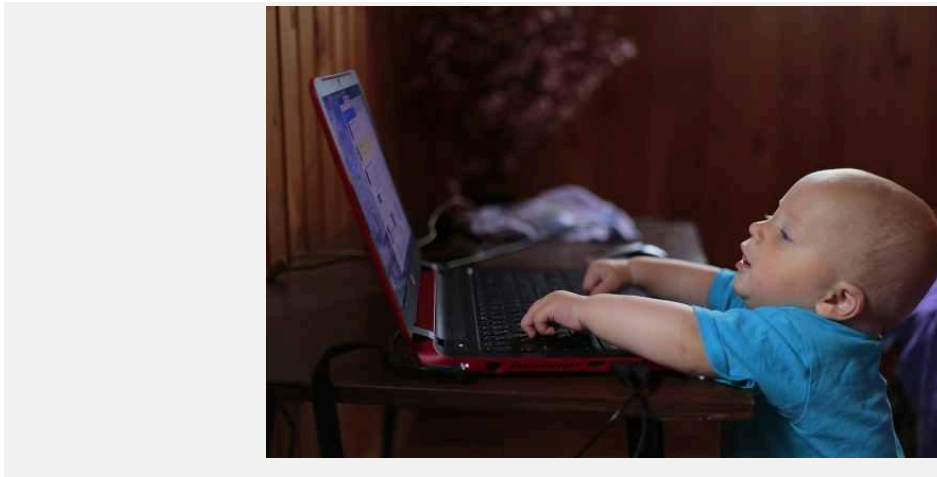


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Computers, phones, wifi and modern technology is a fact of life. It is not going away and our children will use it more and more. It is never too early to talk about online safety. Here are a few web sites that will help you to protect them and give advice if you have concerns.

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5_7/

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.kidscape.org.uk/advice/advice-for-parents-and-carers/internet-safety-and-online-risk/protecting-your-child-online/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Social Media

It is here to stay. The vast majority of the population access it in one form or another. We like to use it to show you what your children have been up to at pre school, to share information and to advertise our organisation.

However every time an image of a child is posted we could be exposing them to potential harm. Some organisations have taken the decision to never post any images of children in any form on any platform. From feedback we have received our parents, extended family and the wider community like to see photos, and in particular our Weekly “Best Bits”. Even with our closed group pages we are only

reducing risk, not eliminating it. We feel it is important for you to have the option to give informed consent before we share any photos of your child.

We would like to work with you, to meet your needs and to reach potential families.

We set out to explain the risk to your child of sharing images via Facebook and other social media platforms. Having read this information we will ask you to consider carefully whether you are happy for your child's images to be shared at all on social media and if so whether this should be limited to private parent only pages or the open public Facebook page. This information relates to your own private use of social media too and how you share images of family on personal accounts.

Things to consider when allowing images to be posted on social media

- Although social media offers various privacy settings there is no way to guarantee that your photos will not be seen by people you didn't intend to share with, either directly through your account or via a friend of a friend of a friend!!! You have no control over the privacy setting of your friends and who accesses their accounts or timelines.
- While the risk of sexual predators stalking children after seeing their images on social media are small it can not be completely discounted. Identification of a child is made easier if an image has recognisable landmarks, or regular places in them.
- Posting photos of your children, without their understanding and consent or knowledge could also set a bad example to them about their right to and the importance of privacy. We all understand about teaching children about stranger danger, not speaking with people they do not know on the street and yet we may be unwittingly sharing their images with people they, and even we, do not know.
- By sharing images of your child you are assuming control of their online identity. This digital footprint may have unforeseen impacts on their future social and professional life and may conflict with their wishes when they are old enough to express them. You need to consider whether later in life your child would want to see, or their peers to see, some of the images that in the moment seemed like harmless fun. As a teen it could cause emotional trauma if these images then came to light.
- Children need help to understand the dangers of uploading the wrong kind of pictures. If you upload lots of images of your children to social media they may not think to censor images they subsequently upload. For example at what point does an image of someone in the bath move from being cute to being inappropriate. Unless children are taught boundaries they do not know where they are.

- After you post images on social media you no longer have ownership or any control over that image and what it is used for. Even with stringent privacy settings photos can be viewed, downloaded, modified and uploaded elsewhere. Images have been known to be used for advertising and in some cases to create fake profiles
- At Community Kernow we aim to ensure that the use of social media is undertaken responsibly and that the confidentiality of pupils and staff, together with the reputation of the organisation, are safeguarded. We recognise that social media and digital platforms are evolving quickly and we are seeking to negotiate it with integrity, for purposes of information and communication. Your consent to share images from any of our activities via social media and other outlets would have been given on enrolment. In view of our increasing use of, and indeed demand for the use of, social media we are asking all parents to renew this consent.

Benefits of social media to Community Kernow

- Improved communication with parents
- To promote our activities, services and successes with parents, students and to a wider audience.
- To encourage greater engagement at school, social and community events
- To promote extended learning and information through relevant links
- To maintain a relationship with families once their children leave
- A very time efficient means of notifying families of changes to school activities, closure etc

How we will use Social Media

- Information regarding special achievements, events, changes to the school day.
- What the children have been learning and enjoying whilst in school
- Links to articles and links to provide information an enhance learning etc
- Photographs and images of children (where consent is expressly given)
- Children's names and personal details will not be posted
- Faces and close ups may be used as well as group photos.
- As a means of direct messaging between us as an organisation and individual parents, in addition to email and telephone.
- All accounts will be overseen by our setting Safeguarding officer.

We will have a number of Facebook pages

Open – Visible to anyone with an account on facebook

Closed – visible only to those who request to join and are accepted by the Administrator. Limited to those with parental responsibility of the child attending the activity. These pages will be created each school year. As children leave the setting their link will be removed from the page. New children joining the setting part way through the year will be allowed to join the page and therefore have access to posts that come before