



# Totley Primary School

Sunnyvale Road, Totley, Sheffield, S174FB  
Tel: 0114 2364482  
enquiries@totley.sheffield.sch.uk  
Website: www.totley.sheffield.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mr Ben Paxman BA (Hons) PGCE  
Assistant Headteacher: Mr Michael Barnes, LLB, PGCE  
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Coralie Corrin, BSc (Hons), PGCE  
Assistant Headteacher: Mr Chris Atkinson, BA (Hons)

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely festive break which was probably filled with tinsel, treats and technology. It's at this time of year that children across school may have a new form of technology: games consoles, tablets and even phones for some of the older children.

As discussed at last year's Online Safety talk that we hosted, there is no 'bad' technology as long as it is managed, monitored and modelled correctly. For those of you who may be unsure or worried about your child becoming 'digital citizens', I've tried to create a breakdown of information as well as where more information can be found. I hope you find the information helpful.

## **Browsing the web on various devices**

Probably the most common activity amongst children, and hardest for us as adults to monitor at home. Most broadband providers provide security features to block certain content (this is also applicable to phone network providers). Children are curious, but we need to ensure that the information they find is accurate and actually appropriate for their age and maturity level. More information should be available on your provider's websites.

## **Playstation/Xbox/Switch**

Gaming is a highly sought after technology right now for all ages of children (and adults!). All 3 of these consoles allow for public and private chats both on screen and via voice chats as gaming becomes more and more 'social'. Again, in-depth information on privacy settings and chat settings can be found on each console provider's website. I have attached a link for each console below, but there are also many other sites to explain how to alter settings.

PS - <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/get-help/help-library/my-account/parental-controls/how-to-use-playstation-4-to-limit-who-can-contact-you-over-plays/>

Xbox - <https://privacy.microsoft.com/en-gb/xbox-one-privacy-and-online-safety>

Nintendo - [https://en-americas-support.nintendo.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/22508/~/%2Fparental-controls-overview-%2F-faq](https://en-americas-support.nintendo.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/22508/~/%2Fparental-controls-overview-%2F-faq)

**TIP:** Many YouTube videos can be found that provide step-by-step tutorials of how to adjust your settings.



**TIP:** Be aware that when a console has an update (you're usually informed of this), it can sometimes reset or alter your settings, so do check them regularly.

A growing issue that we have noticed in school is the standard of online conduct between our actual friends rather than strangers. Being kicked out from groups, or being told a certain time to go online, but then never be added to the group can be upsetting and sometimes consequences need to be better thought through.

### **Social Media**

This is a strange phrase as the nature of the Internet is that it is social, and contains a host of media. We know Social Media to mean Facebook, Instagram, Whatsapp etc. Rather than break down each individual one, most 'social' apps all update to essentially have the same features. The ability to have private chats/groups as well as share things publicly or just with 'friends'. One of the biggest issues with this area of technology is the constant changes and new apps that appear.

Instagram and Whatsapp are currently the most common for our children in Topley, so it is important that a balance is found between their usage being monitored, and trusting them with the apps.

Many 'social' apps now have privacy settings. However, people are more reluctant to alter these as it can remove the actual point of having the app. In a world obsessed with getting 'likes', 'fans' and 'followers', what's the point of only allowing your friends to see something? This is an issue facing many young adults today. Privacy settings can allow us to practise our online skills and become safe digital citizens which is something all our children need to be doing: learning how to be safe digital citizens.

**TIP:** If there is an app that your child downloads or wants to download, and you are unaware of it, why not look at it together or research its functions, issues and privacy settings.

### **Resources and points of interest**

<https://parentzone.org.uk/>- 'Digital Parenting' magazine by Vodafone is a good magazine to support both teachers and parents, and I promoted its use last year. However, the issues have not been as frequent as first expected, but the website it is found on is fantastic and updated regularly.

<https://www.esafety-adviser.com/newsletter/#toggle-id-8>- is run by someone who travels the country supporting parents and schools with online safety. He used to work for a local authority before going solo. His magazines mostly explore different practices and ideas for home and school as well as point out new apps etc that could pose particular risks. Again, this is a resource for parents and teachers and the link above takes you to all the archived editions. Links to the latest edition will be emailed out to parents when they become available.



Thank you for taking the time to read this, hopefully, useful guide that I have put together. As you can tell, I'm particularly interested and passionate about this area of our children's learning. I believe the online world is one of the most important areas that our children need to develop skills for as it will be part of their lives every day for years to come.

If you wish to read a little more around ideas for modelling and monitoring your child's use of the online world, here is a link to an article (pg 16 of the magazine) I enjoyed writing a few years ago about forming positive discussions and developing a trust ethos between each other on the online world. <https://www.esafety-adviser.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/DITTO-Apr-2017.pdf>

Once again, thank you for taking the time to read this, and I hope you found it useful. Don't forget our door is always open if you have any questions about your child's online safety at home.

Yours sincerely

Michael Cooper  
Year 5 teacher  
Online Safety Officer

