



Tadcaster Grammar School

'A Culture of Excellence'

16 September 2019

Dear Parents

ICT Acceptable Use Agreement and e-Safety

As you are aware, we take great care to ensure that internet access for both students and staff at Tadcaster Grammar School is secure, safe and carefully monitored. The internet can be an incredibly powerful tool for learning, but we endeavour at all times to block unsuitable content, and provide guidance to students in ways to protect themselves from malicious or inappropriate material. The intention is not simply to guarantee safe internet use within school, but to ensure that students have a wider understanding of the benefits of new technologies, and an awareness too of the potential dangers.

As part of our continued vigilance, we have requested that all staff and students sign an Acceptable Use Agreement (AUA) which details our expectations regarding the use of ICT resources and internet access. For students in years 7 to 11, we are also requesting that parents read this agreement and the e-Safety policy which can be found on the school's website, before countersigning the relevant page which appears in student planners.

We have made it clear to students that we will have no option but to disable their internet access and use of the school's ICT resources if we do not have this signed assurance, so please could you discuss this with your child, and complete the relevant page in the student planner. They will then need to show this to their form tutor to confirm acceptance of this important agreement.

For parents of students in Year 7 and Year 8 who are now using chromebooks, it is even more important that you understand the potential risks associated with internet access. These devices are strictly monitored in school and we are able to block any inappropriate content, but if used at home you will need to ensure that you provide a safe and secure environment when allowing internet access.

I have also added some further useful documents relating to e-Safety to the Parents section of the school website, which I hope you will find useful both in school and at home. ([CLICK HERE](#) to access). Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like more information about this Acceptable User Agreement, or have any questions or concerns regarding e-Safety.

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Tips to help keep your child safe online

Helpful tools and advice you can use to keep your child safe when they use the internet at home, at a friend's house or at school.

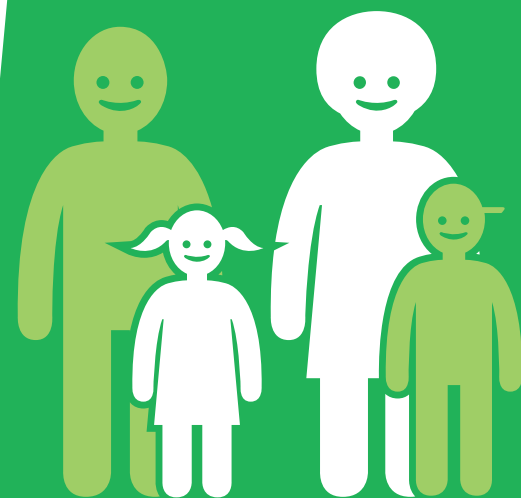
The internet is great for learning, sharing, connecting and creating. So try and balance how you guide your child on online safety with an understanding of why they want to use it. You don't want your child to feel they can't come to you if they encounter a problem online.

Set rules and agree boundaries as a family

- ✓ Set boundaries for how long your child can spend online and what they can do.
- ✓ Agree this as a family so that access to devices can be shared fairly.
- ✓ Remember there are tools that can help you manage and monitor access and use across all devices.

Talk about online safety and get involved

- ✓ Have conversations about online safety little and often and build it into other conversations.
- ✓ Ask questions about what they do online, such as what sites they visit and who they talk to.
- ✓ Make the use of the internet a family activity.
- ✓ Remember to share these rules with babysitters, childminders and other family members.
- ✓ Talk to other parents about internet use, such as what they do and don't allow.



Know who they are talking to

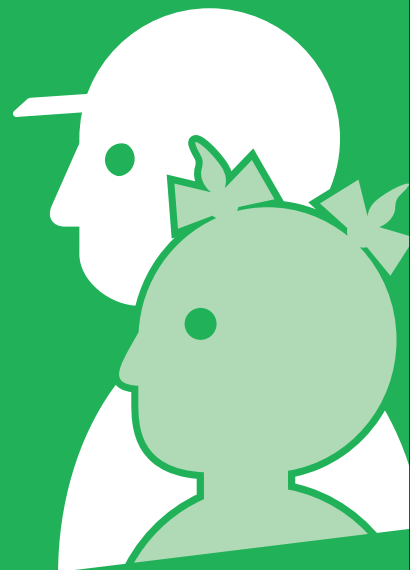
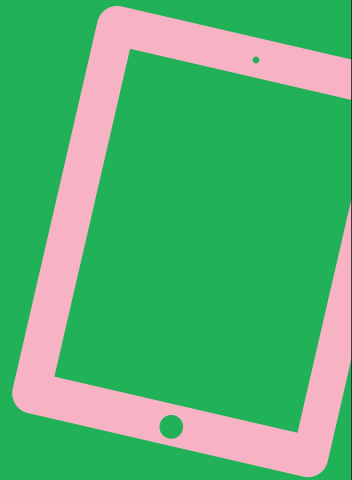
- ✓ Tell your child that strangers can pop up anywhere online: email, instant messenger, social networking sites or online games.
- ✓ Your child may feel they know someone well, even if they've only played a game with them online. So remember to talk to them about what they share with people they've only met online.
- ✓ Discuss boundaries and say you'd like to be friends on social networks, initially.
- ✓ Understand the games they play.
- ✓ Ensure your child knows what to do if someone they don't know contacts them, eg ask you for advice.
- ✓ Show your child how to report abuse and how to block people on the websites they use.

Check content is age-appropriate

- ✓ Check age ratings of **games**, online movies and websites.

Use parental and privacy controls

- ✓ Check the privacy settings on social media and websites.
- ✓ Adjust parental controls to suit your child's age and maturity.
- ✓ Make sure you always logout of your online accounts.



For more help and advice visit
www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

or contact the NSPCC **helpline** on
0808 800 5000 to discuss any concerns