

Our Code for Happy and Safe Online Communication

As they get older, many of our children communicate with one another online through a variety of social media, phone texts and online games.

There are many positives for our children about this online communication world – as long as we support our children’s understanding of how this communication can be safe and happy.

In school in 2016, classes discussed the ‘do’s and don’ts’ of online communication that help to ensure it is happy and safe. We have put together some of the children’s ‘do’s and don’ts’ below to produce a Code and help your child understand how to be happy and safe online.



As parents, you decide how and when your child should have access to online communication. We are sharing the Code the children created with you so that you can discuss these rules at home when the time is right for your child. Once discussed, the Code could be ‘signed’ as a promise to keep safe and happy on-line.

If your child experiences any problems with others from school are not following the Code, then do share a screenshot of the problem communication with us here in school and we can help support all our children to ‘do the right thing’ to ensure they are all safe and happy online.

We always follow the SMART code when we are online:

- SAFE** Keep your personal information safe
- MEET** Friends made online are strangers; meeting them can be dangerous
- ACCEPTING** Accepting files or downloading software can be dangerous.
If unsure, ask an adult!
- RELIABLE** Not everyone or everything online is reliable or trustworthy
- TELL** Always tell an adult if something online upsets or worries you

Dos and Don'ts for when we are communicating with others online:

	
<p>Do ...turn on high privacy settings so only the people you choose and you know can see your profile and posts – check you have got this right with an adult</p>	<p>Don't...ever reveal or share any personal information – your full name, date of birth, address</p>
<p>Do ...be nice!</p>	<p>Don't...troll – which means saying mean or hurtful things to or about others – even in a jokey way. This is cyber-bullying.</p>
<p>Do ... play games with others in a friendly way</p>	<p>Don't... grief – which means destroying other people's games and things in their games</p>
<p>Do ... use social media to have positive chats with your friends</p>	<p>Don't... try and solve problems or arguments through texts or online – it only makes the problem worse</p>
<p>Do ... keep your computer free from viruses</p>	<p>Don't... click on any links/ pop ups or 'prizes' – they will give your computer a virus</p>
<p>Do ... share with your parents anything that makes you feel uncomfortable</p>	<p>Don't...don't hide or delete anything that makes you feel uncomfortable before you have shared it with your parents</p>
<p>Do ... mute or block anyone who is using bad or abusive language</p>	<p>Don't... accept any bad or abusive language from anyone</p>
<p>Do ... remember that people who you chat to online who you don't know are strangers not friends</p>	<p>Don't... 'friend' strangers – if you don't know them, don't 'friend' them</p>