



Monday 30th September 2024

Online Safety Information and Updates

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since the return to school this September we have been sent two important pieces of information from the Lincolnshire Community Safety Team. We have been asked to share these with you in relation to supporting your child to stay safe online. We really hope you find them useful, and you do take the time to read/ watch the articles and attached links.

The online world is constantly changing and evolving, and we know how difficult it is for parents to keep up with this. We hope the following information will be useful and will help you to keep your child safe.

Age Restrictions on Games PEGI Ratings information for parents

Attached to this letter is a factsheet to explain and remind parents about age ratings on games.

Purchasing A Smart phone for a child?

Is it the right time to get my child a Smart phone? A new film by the charity Nip in the Bud discusses the hidden dangers of social media and smartphone use among children. If you are considering getting your child a phone we would urge you to watch the film here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Zhfd0jW7iY&t=605s> the film provides insights from children, headteachers and doctors, shedding light on the everyday harm caused by digital platforms.

Key facts:

- 90% of 11-year-olds own a smartphone, and most under 13 have a social media profile.
- 90% of girls and 50% of boys have received explicit pictures or videos they didn't want to see.
- 80% of teenage girls are pressured to provide sexual images of themselves.
- 1 in 5 children have been bullied online. Among them, 24% self-harm and 22% change their appearance due to bullying. Only 13% delete the app where they are bullied.
- Boys as young as 13 have been targeted for sextortion scams.
- MRI scans show screen time reduces brain areas responsible for visual processing, empathy, attention, memory and early reading skills.
- Psychologists, headteachers and GPs are advocating for stricter guidelines: no smartphones until age 14, no social media until age 16

You can read more information here which provides more options to consider around technology prior to purchasing smartphones for children. [Smartphones and social media fact sheet | Nip in the Bud | Free Downloadable Fact Sheet](#)

"Being the best that we can be..."

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Headteacher: Mrs Antonia Coy
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Becky Taylor
Chair of Governors: Mrs Dawn Berry





As always if you do require any further support with keeping your child safe online, please do not hesitate to contact our school safeguarding team (Antonia Coy, Becky Taylor, Sophie Waters or Caroline Jaines) on 01507 327393 or email enquires@grimoldbyprimaryschool.co.uk. We are always here to help and support you. You will also find a range of resources and information on our Online Safety page on our website.

Yours Faithfully,

Antonia Coy

Headteacher

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