Monkseaton High School eSafety Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of our eSafety newsletter - a quick read and practical advice to keep yourself and your child safe online

Password security

Can we remind you about the importance of password security. Every effort should be made to ensure unique passwords are used for each site. Please do not share your password and login details.

A secure password would be:

- Secret
- Memorable
- Contain a range of upper case, lower case, numbers and special characters
- 8 characters or more

Use privacy settings across social media platforms to manage your digital footprint.

Social media is a great way to stay in touch with family, friends and keep up to date on the latest news. However, it's important to know how to manage the security and privacy settings on your accounts, so that your personal information remains inaccessible to anyone but you.

Need more information?

Many online resources focus on advice for parents:

- www.internetmatters.org
- https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/a-z-guide/social-media/
- https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/
- https://www.commonsensemedia.org/social-media

All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online

Look out for events in the run up to February 8th 2022 when we celebrate the work and progress made in safer internet use. This campaign enables us to reflect on our current habits, practice and promote safe, legal use of all digital platforms.

We would like to remind all members of our school community that you have signed our Acceptable User agreement and are committed to respecting boundaries set as an important part of our school safeguarding culture.

As a school we are clear about the negative impact of malicious communication and defamation of character on individuals. Actions which fall into this category will be taken seriously. Individuals should be very careful when posting content to digital media platforms.

The school would like to reinforce that children under no circumstance should be posting any content on social media platforms that mentions, incorporates or identifies the school (posting in school uniform).

Any post which would be deemed by the Headteacher to be inappropriate will be followed up robustly and per the school policies. Any post of a more serious nature will be referred to the Police for further action. Social media platforms have a variety of age ratings and should be checked regularly.

TikTok app safety – What parents need to know

What are the current trends and challenges?

TikTok trends and challenges are a popular part of the app that change often. Users can re-create content from dance challenges to memes about current events. While many are harmless and fun, there are others that need to be monitored closely.

Some of these trends have resulted in hospital visits for broken bones, hair being ripped out and more. Young people often don't consider the consequences.

What should parents be concerned about?

1. When you download the app users can see all the content without creating an account although they are not able to post, like, or share anything until they've set up an account on the app.

2. By default all accounts are public so anyone on the app can see what your child shares. However, only approved followers can send them messages.

3. Users can like or react to a video, follow an account or send messages to each other, so there is the risk that strangers will be able to directly contact children on the app.

4. Children may be tempted to take risks to get more of a following or likes on a video so it's important to talk about what they share and with who.

https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/