



Online Safety Update

Dear Parents / Carers,

This week in school we have taken part in Safer Internet Day - an international event promoting online safety to young people - with the focus this year on exploring the safe and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence. Every class in school took part in activities which helped the children explore and recognise the benefits of using AI while of course learning how to use it safely and responsibly.

As a school, we are committed to teaching the children about safe use of the internet at home and in school. With this in mind, pupils are regularly involved in online safety lessons as part of their Computing curriculum and are reminded of the expectations within our school's E-Safety Charter every time they log on to a school computer.

Recently, I chaired a meeting of the Westacre Online Safety Committee, which also includes the following people:

- Representatives from the Pupil Voice Digital Ambassadors
- Mr Street as subject leader for Computing
- Iain Willians as the school governor with responsibility for online safety

During the meeting, we discussed the following:

- Our school's Online Safety policy
- School monitoring and filtering software
- Online Safety learning in the curriculum
- Safer Internet Day
- Online safety survey responses

We agreed to share the following insights from the online safety survey that all pupils in school completed anonymously recently:

- 91% of Westacre children use the internet at home
- 71% of Westacre children use a games console to access the internet at home
- 55% of Westacre children use social media at home

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- 92% of Westacre children use YouTube at home
- 65% of Westacre children always follow the advice they've been taught about how to stay safe online
- 77% of Westacre children have spoken to their parents / carers about staying safe online
- 53% of Westacre children play online games with a higher PEGI rating than their actual age
- 45% of Westacre children play games online with people they've never met in real life

Thank you to the parents and carers who took the time to complete the online safety survey we shared with you. Parents who took part mostly shared concerns around cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Due to the relatively low numbers of parents who took part in the survey, we are not sure yet if there is enough interest in us organising a parent online safety workshop in school. If you feel this would be useful to you and your child, the original parent survey can still be accessed via [Parent / Carer Online Safety Survey - Fill out form](#)

The majority of parents who have already responded to the survey were unaware of the online safety advice we share on our website, so I would like to signpost everyone to [Online Safety | Westacre Middle School](#). Here you can find a range of advice and resources to support your discussions about online safety with your child at home. Resources include guidance on setting up parental controls on a range of online games, tools and apps, but please do make contact with school if you have any questions or requests for further guidance.

While the benefits of the online world are clear to see, we thank all parents and carers for their partnership and support in promoting safe and responsible use of the internet both at home and in school.

Kind regards,

Paul Barber

Mr P Barber
Deputy Headteacher & E-Safety Co-ordinator