



Swalwell Primary School

Swalwell Primary School
South View Terrace
Swalwell
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE16 3HZ

Tel: 0191 433 4000
Email: swalwellprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk

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Dear Parents / Carers,

INTERNET SAFETY

Along with the rising appeal of social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, there unfortunately is also an increase in the dangers that children are being exposed to.

Many social media sites have default privacy settings which are set to "public" which means that anyone can view the content that your child posts online. This has resulted in recent media cases where children have been placed in harm's way because offenders have either accessed their information, their whereabouts, or have been able to join in with online conversations/chats which is part of the grooming process. Many offenders use fake profile IDs and target children by claiming to share the same interests as them.

Top Tips for Parents to keep your child safe online:

1. Talk to your child about what they like to use online.
2. Know who your child's friends are, both in the real and virtual worlds.
3. Supervise what your child shares online.
4. Have the "never meet" rule – never to meet anyone in real life who they have only met online.
5. Monitor your child's usage.
6. Set your child's passwords and regularly check in to make sure they haven't been changed.
7. Set parental controls / filter what they can access.
8. Educate yourself – keep up with new technology and internet language.
9. Talk to your child about risk.
10. Teach your child about who can help e.g. CEOP.

As a school, we have recently become aware that many of our children access social media groups such as 'Whatsapp'. We strongly recommend you carefully monitor who is in the group chats and the content of conversations.

For more information, please feel free to speak with a member of the staff team and we will be more than happy to help in anyway we can.

Kind Regards

Mrs Rachel Hocking
Headteacher
Swalwell Primary School
[#heartofthecommunity](#)

