

The Island Project School

Diddington Hall
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Serving the needs of children with autism and related communication disorders in Warwickshire & the West Midlands

24th October 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

e-safety *“Some groups of children are potentially more vulnerable and more at risk than others when using ICT. These can include children with . . .complex needs . . .they may be particularly vulnerable to e-safety risks. For example:*

- *Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder may make literal interpretations of content, which will affect how they respond.*
- *Some children may not understand much of the terminology due to language delays or disorders.*
- *Some children with complex needs do not understand the concept of friendship, and therefore trust everyone implicitly. They do not know how to make judgements about what is safe information to share. This leads to confusion about why you should not trust others on the internet.*
- *There is also growing concern around cyberbullying. We need to remember that some children with SEN or disabilities may be vulnerable to being bullied through the internet, or not recognise that they are being bullied.*
- *In addition, some children may not appreciate how their own online behaviour may be seen by someone else as bullying”*

Childnet International

With all of the potential that the online world and new technology offers, our pupils now have access to a huge range of opportunities. They use technology to communicate, express themselves, explore, reinforce and be creative; it has changed the way they communicate. Many of the things that confuse, baffle or even scare us as adults and parents, are part of the everyday life for children who are growing up now.

The Island Project is committed to teaching your child about how to stay safe online, and this is an integral part of everyday teaching. Access to technology and computers is monitored as part of the 1:1 teaching, and e-safety is heavily promoted as part of this access

As part of this commitment, we would like to work with parents and carers to understand if pupils use technology in a different way when they are outside School so that we can address and cover as part of the e-safety or “stranger danger” teaching given to all pupils.

As part of this commitment, please find enclosed a questionnaire. I would be really grateful if you could complete and return this. This will then be used to inform teaching of pupils moving forwards.

Cont/...

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Company registration No: 5924196 School Reg. No: 334/6010
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The School is also able to offer online training to parents, and if you would like to participate in this, please complete, sign and return the section at the back of the questionnaire. You will then be sent an invitation to participate in the online training.

Finally, if you do have any comments or concerns about safe use of technology in School, or about your child's e-safety generally, please contact Nicole Sheehan, the School Manager, who will arrange for a convenient time for you to discuss this with your child's Head of Unit.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Gallagher
Compliance Director
email : s.gallagher@theislandproject.co.uk

Useful links:

KidSMART: Drama for primary pupils: <http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/teachers/drama.aspx>

Childnet: Know IT All for parents : <http://www.childnet.com/kia/parents>

CEOP Think U Know website: <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Vodafone Digital Parenting interactive magazine:
<http://asp-gb.secure-zone.net/v2/index.jsp?id=1134/2660/5747&lng=en>

Get Safe Online: <http://www.getsafeonline.org/>

Digizen: Cyberbullying film: <http://www.digizen.org/resources/cyberbullying/films/uk/lfit-film.aspx>

Friendly WiFi: <http://www.getmedigital.com/friendly-wifi>