**Tuesday 9th November**

**Orrets Meadow**

**E-safety Briefing – November 2021**

I wanted to make governors aware that I have recently participated in the above course that was held in the school.

As you are all aware the changes and influences that surround the on-line world are constantly changing and evolving. How do we protect the young people in our care and ensure that they are given the tools to be safe?

The course highlighted some of the issues around currently. Through discussion I began to understand why the whole school community need to come together to promote positive relationships with a clear understanding and expectation of how we can all play our part.

The school has robust policies in place and filters that promote safer online participation. Governors can access the school website to see resources/polices are available and help to improve their understanding of what is already in place. Children only spend so much of their time in school, only by the pupil, school and parent/carers working together can we help reduce risk.

Our school already promotes clear guidelines around the use of images of pupils, staff and wider family members. Unfortunately within the wider context there are cases at the moment where staff images are being used inappropriately in other schools by pupils and some are at primary level. This can cause staff to be stressed and upset so everyone needs to be aware when posting images and commenting on others.

Every year the school undertakes a safeguarding, health & safety and fire safety audits. It has been recommended that e-safety is also included along with the safeguarding to ensure that policies and procedures are not left behind.

There is an **internet day on 9th December** and parent governors will be able to support school with their child and promote safer internet use. Currently the resources are aimed at 7 – 11 year olds, however, it is good that parents help younger children begin to understand how to keep safe, the younger the better <https://parentzone.org.uk> has a good variety of videos and resources that can help explain things. Parent governors can promote this to other parents if they do not know about it.

Some suggestions for good practice that came out of the course.

The school to have a named e-safety governor (this is can be the governor that has responsibilities for safeguarding)

Special assemblies around e-safety

Feedback annual from e-safety co-ordinator to governors, perhaps with a case study

Parent workshops on e-safety

E-safety champion in each class that can help and support others to stay safe on line. In some schools this is everyone not just one pupil.

I know school already has a lot in place but I wanted to share with you the discussion points.

Useful websites LGFL (London Grid for Learning) lots of useful web videos and resources for parents and school [www.lgfl.net](http://www.lgfl.net) attached with these notes is a useful poster that can be attached at home to the fridge. Parents can download their own copy from the LGFL site.

Internet matters [www.internetmatters/org](http://www.internetmatters/org) - again lot of useful information for parents as well as school

Well Being on Instagram about.instagram.com>blog

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) also has games and resources

Discord - A free on line platform owned by Amazon recommended for 13+ children. Please be aware that once granted access whilst it is a way to chat and share images this is not a site that comes without risks. Younger children in families could come into contact with this platform and be exposed to risk.

There are a lot of online sites that you can visit to help improve our own understanding of keeping safe. Promoting a holistic approach for families will strengthen the schools ability to keep the young people in our care safer. Empowering the children through the curriculum will strengthen their ability to make safer choices and understand the virtual world is not the same as the physical one. Online activity can impact in the physical world, including mental health. The internet has some wonderful resources and it is a fine balance to ensure that information is not so heavily censored that will restrict learning. Orrets Meadow is an outstanding school and I am confident that everyone is committed to ensuring a safe online presence.

I hope you found the information useful and will keep you updated should there be any other material available.

**Cindy Cooper**

**Vice Chair of Governors.**