



## Meridian Primary School

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### Online Safety

Dear Parents/Carers,

As some of you will already be aware, there have recently been news reports of an online 'challenge' targeted at children and young people. Although recent reports have suggested that this matter has been exaggerated and is in fact a hoax, it has come to our attention that many of our Key Stage 2 children have heard these reports and some have expressed concerns; a small number of children have reported to adults in school that they have been frightened by images that they have seen of a character associated with this hoax.

Whilst we do not want to cause unnecessary worry, we would encourage parents and carers to read the following online safety guide produced by the National Online Safety website:

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides). This includes tips on how to monitor online activity and have meaningful conversations with your children about online safety.

The Met police offers the following tips for making sure your child is safe online:

- Encourage your child to treat online strangers the same way they would treat them in the street - not to trust everything they say.
- Make sure your child does not arrange to meet up with anyone they have met online. You need to explain the dangers to them.
- Encourage your child to keep personal information to themselves while online.
- Treat their online friendships in the same way as their real world friendships; by showing an interest.
- Share the experience of going online - go surfing together.
- Agree with your child that you will help set up their profile with them. This way you will know their password and can access their account if necessary.
- Encourage them to limit their number of friends.
- Talk with your child about their experiences online.

Parents of children are responsible for children's online activity. Our advice is to remove phones and other online devices from your child's bedroom, monitor your child's internet usage regularly and ensure that you comply with age restrictions for programs and apps - children need to be 13 years old to use SnapChat and Instagram; Whatsapp requires a minimum age of 16.

Please do not hesitate to speak to me or your child's class teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,  
Jo Graham, Headteacher