

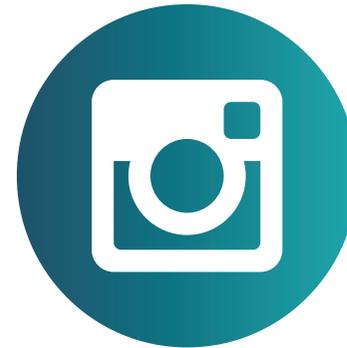
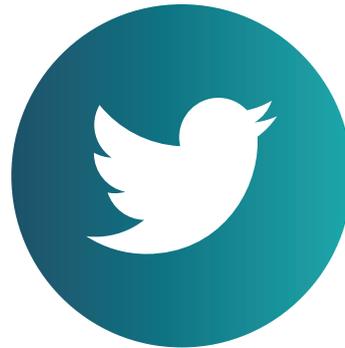


Heartlands
High School



E-SAFETY

Advice for Parents



A guide to your child's online safety

What is my child doing online?

Socialising – Your child will be using services online to create a network of 'friends'. Social networking sites, like Facebook, encourage and enable your child to link with their friends, and friends of friends, so they can chat, keep up to date, share photos and videos ... and their opinions of them!

Gaming – Games can be played against anyone in the world via internet devices, at any time and for as long as you want.

Talking to people – Young people use the internet to talk to others in a number of different ways: emailing, instant messaging, webcam and chat rooms. This allows them to be inquisitive, explore relationships and actively seek risks, such as flirting with people that they don't know.

Sharing – Their own (and other people's) images, videos, sound, information, opinions, location through apps such as Snapchat, Facebook and WhatsApp. They can also choose to share to individuals, groups or the whole world.

Searching – It's now easy for young people to actively search for material that might be inappropriate for their age, or stumble across things that might upset or disturb them, including: unrestricted access to adult material and extreme opinions.

Using a mobile phone – Mobile phones are becoming even more powerful and many now allow children to: access the internet, take and share videos/photos online, chat with instant messaging, video and text, share their location and play games.

Top tips for your child's safety

Be involved in your child's online life – Talk to them about what they're doing, if they know you understand they are more likely to approach you if they need support.

Keep up-to-date with your child's development online Be inquisitive and interested in the new gadgets and sites that your child is using.

Set boundaries in the online world just as you would in the real world – Think about what they might see, what they share, who they talk to and how long they spend online.

Know what connects to the internet and how Your child will use all sorts of devices and gadgets; make sure you're aware of which ones can connect to the internet, such as their phone or games console.

Consider the use of parental controls on devices that link to the internet – Parental controls are a tool to help you set appropriate boundaries as your child grows and develops.

Emphasise that not everyone is who they say they are Make sure your child understands that they should never meet up with anyone they only know online without taking a trusted adult with them.

What Apps/websites is my child using?



Facebook



Twitter



Instagram



YouTube



Snapchat



WhatsApp

What the law says

Privacy/Cyberbullying – There are a number of UK laws that can be applied to children who have been perpetrators of bullying through electronic communication, or the spreading of information without consent of the subject. Schools also have strict guidelines to follow, which if broken, can result in further disciplinary action.

Pirating movies, music and software – It's easy for children to download and make illegal copies of copyrighted movies, music and software. This is an offence under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act 1988.

Libel and defamation – Social networking sites and apps, allow children to attack peers or teachers, for example. These attacks can sometimes amount to libel or defamation lawsuits, or disciplinary action at school.

Sexting – Sexting refers to 'sending or receiving sexually explicit or sexually suggestive nude or seminude images or video'. Sharing explicit images of under-18s is an offence even if they are taken by the youngsters themselves.