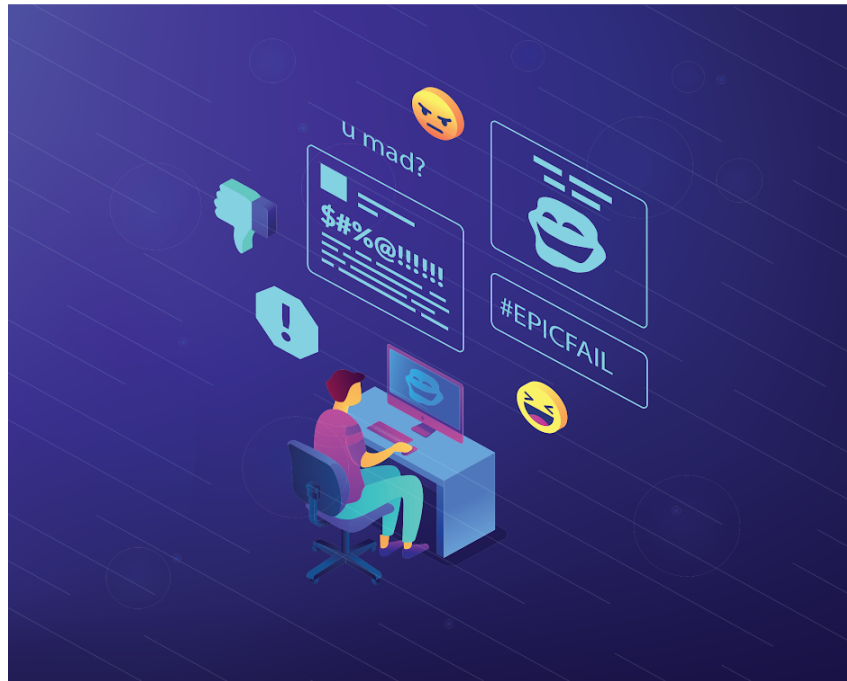




Striving for Excellence

Ryefield's Fortnightly Update

14-06-2019



Social Media and Online Gaming

We live in an ever changing world and the advance of technology has reached such a pace that at times it can feel overwhelming. Sadly, the school often finds itself in the position of having to resolve problems that started out of school hours and online at the family home. The two biggest bugbears at the moment involve pupils using WhatsApp, and inappropriate behaviour whilst gaming online.

As a school we do a lot of work to ensure our children understand their role and responsibility in behaving in a safe and sensible fashion, however as parents you also have a role to play to ensure that you are monitoring their devices and checking that the content they are using is age appropriate and the correct safety filters are being used. The school can only do so much.



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Guidance on WhatsApp

Minimum age restriction

The minimum age of use for WhatsApp is 16 years old. It had previously dropped to 13 years old but in April 2018 returned to 16, as a response to data-protection legislation.

Like many age restrictions on social media apps, some children may ignore this and sign up for WhatsApp when they're younger.

WhatsApp's main purpose is to send messages to friends - it isn't public in the same way that Twitter is, and people can only message friends who are already added on their phone. As long as your child only has trusted people as contacts on their phone, it is a relatively safe social media app.

If this is the case, the only thing you'll need to make your child aware of the fact that can come into contact with strangers on group chats.

Group Chats

The group chat function allows up to 256 people to chat in one conversation stream. Each group is set up by one person, known as the group admin, who is the only person who can add or remove participants and change or add further group administrators.

Anybody in the group, even if they're not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see messages that your child posts and likewise your child will be able to see theirs. Also, if your child is added to a group with someone they have themselves blocked, that person will then be able to contact them.

Although your child might not be able to control if they're added to a group chat, they can always control their own participation within it – they can leave whenever they want to.

Guidance on behaviour whilst gaming online

What are the risks of online games?

- Children may view inappropriate or upsetting content if they play games that aren't suitable for their age. This could include sexual or violent material. It might be in-game content or produced by other players.
- Some players can be abusive towards others or try to exclude them from the game. Some players may also hack another user's account or try to steal and destroy their virtual possessions. This can be as upsetting for a young person as if it happened in real life.
- Children may play with adults they don't know. People of all ages play games. Some adults may exploit this and try to build an emotional connection with a child for the purpose of grooming.
- Some children may find it hard to stop playing games or find that gaming is getting the way of them doing other activities.

5 ways to help children play safe

1. Check the game's content

Always check age ratings but remember they don't cover everything. It's important to check the game out yourself before letting a young child play it. If you want extra information about the content of a boxed console or computer game, take a look at the Video Standard's Council's [Additional Consumer Information \(ACI\)](#).

2. Know how to mute, block and report

Help children understand that people they meet online may not always be who they claim to be. Some games let you mute, block and report other users. Make sure your child knows how to do this if someone in the game upsets them or makes them feel uncomfortable. Childline has [online gaming advice](#) to help them do this. Remind your child they can come to you if they're ever worried.

3. **Be Share Aware**

Remind your child not to give out any personal information, photos or videos to anyone online, even if they know them. If your child plays games with people they don't know, remind them not to take the conversation off the game, onto other social networks or into a private chat. Find out more about [being Share Aware](#).

4. **Activate Safety Settings**

Turn on [parental controls](#) on gaming consoles to help prevent children from downloading age inappropriate games or seeing harmful material. The Apple App Store lets you turn off in-app purchases on iPads and iPhones and the Apple App Store and Google Play let you create a pin code that must be entered before you buy. You can also turn on privacy settings on some games to control what other users can see about you and stop strangers from contacting you. Contact the O2 & NSPCC Online Safety Helpline for free on [0808 800 5002](#) for advice on how to do this.

5. **Keep the Conversation Going**

Have regular conversations with your child about staying safe online. Agree what games are suitable for them to play and help them understand why others are inappropriate. Talk to them about the types of games they may be watching on game streaming sites. Remind them they should tell a trusted adult, like a teacher or parent, if they see or hear something that upsets them when gaming. And they can talk to Childline for free 24 hours a day if they're ever worried.

As parents, we need to realise that we are giving our children devices which are designed for adults. Without the proper supervision you are enabling them to see images, videos and behave in a way that is not age appropriate.

Please help us help your children by making sure they are mature enough to access the content and use the devices in a fashion which does not cause upset and distress in others.

A **HUGE** thank you to the Friends of Ryefield



Once again our students have benefitted from the kindness and community spirit from the dedicated group of adults who form Friends of Ryefield.

Your children would have visited the fathers' day shop and bought well that would be telling!

Tuesday 18th June is Super Hero Day for children in Reception

If your reception child has a yearning to wear their underwear on top of their clothes then they will be over the moon with the activities we have planned for them on Tuesday. Cape and cowl required to get the most out of the day.



Polite Reminder - Parking

Please can we remind parents to be considerate when parking at school at the beginning and end of the day. Cars are still parked blocking driveways or obstructing others, or parents drop their children and then turn in the road causing further congestion.

If you witness an incident which you would like to report please contact the **Parking Enforcement Department on 01895 271418.**



Triple P Seminar

The power of positive parenting



Ryefield Primary School
Ryefield Avenue, Uxbridge UB10 9DE
Tuesday 25th June 2019 from 1.00 pm – 2.30pm

IS THIS YOU?

Most of the time, parenting is fun. You know you are doing a good job, but sometimes you find parenting demanding, frustrating and exhausting.

Do you know that in order to raise a healthy, well-adjusted child to have the skills and confidence they need to succeed at school and in their relationships with others, they need a safe, secure and loving environment?

Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme) reduces the stress of parenting and makes parenting more rewarding and enjoyable by helping you:

- Create a warm, loving, safe environment for your child
- Use positive strategies to encourage your child's learning

- Use assertive discipline to help your child take responsibility for their actions
- Have reasonable expectations of both your child and yourself
- Take care of yourself by looking after your own needs, balancing work and family responsibilities, challenging negative thinking and working as a team

In around 90 minutes, this seminar will leave you feeling more confident and competent and ready to deal with the challenges that raising a child can bring.

To reserve your place please contact Mrs Hayward on 01895 547036 or sign up at the Front Reception Desk before Monday 24th June.

brilliantparents.org

Brilliant Parents is a trading name of Brilliant Women
Brilliant Women is a Social Enterprise to Inspire and Empower Change



Striving for Excellence

Be prepared for warm weather!

We're hoping for a glorious warm summer once again and as it approaches we would like to remind you of a few school rules relating to the warmer weather.



- Please ensure you apply sunscreen to your child before they come to school to protect them throughout the day.
- Please supply your child with a sunhat and appropriate uniform for the weather.
- Children should bring a bottle of water to school to keep them hydrated during the day. (Children have access to water in class and at lunch as well as the water fountains around school)
- Sunglasses should not be worn unless they are prescription or for medical reasons.
- If your child suffers from hayfever please ensure they take their medication before school so to last them throughout the day.

Ignite Speech - World in Crisis.



Over the past week the children have been sharing their Ignite speeches. Pupils have prepared a speech about something that ignites their passion: Nandos or global climate change.

Some will be shared next week at our oracy event, and others are in the process of being filmed and will be circulated online. Here's one of our favourites: World in Crisis by Annika (Y6). https://youtu.be/iQNXp9IH_xA

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 17th June	Y6 return from PGL Trip - approx 6.00pm-7.00pm
Tuesday 18th June	Reception Super Hero Day
Friday 21st June	Y2 Trip to Windsor Castle
Wednesday 26th June	KS1 & KS2 Sports Day
Thursday 27th June	Y3 Trip to Natural History Museum - Tring
Friday 28th June	Nursery & Reception Sports Day
Friday 28th June	Mandela Class assembly @ 2.45pm
Tuesday 2nd July	Transition Day - Y6 children to visit Secondary Schools - Rest of school to new classes
Friday 5th July	INSET Day - Staff Only
Wednesday 10th July	Y5 to Camping (returning on Friday 12th July)
Saturday 13th July	Party in the Playground - 6.00pm - 10.30pm
Tuesday 16th July	Y6 Show - 2.00pm and 5.00pm
Friday 19th July	TERM ENDS - KS1 - 1.30pm / KS2 - 1.35pm