

E-Safety at Grange Junior School

National guidance suggests that it is essential for schools to take a leading role in e-safety. Becta in its “**Safeguarding Children in a Digital World**” suggested.

“That schools support parents in understanding the issues and risks associated with children’s use of digital technologies. Furthermore, Becta recommends that all schools have acceptable use policies, and ensure that parents are aware of the procedures for e-safety within the school. Recognising the growing trend for home-school links and extended school activities, Becta recommends that schools take an active role in providing information and guidance for parents on promoting e-safety messages in home use of ICT, too”.

The “**Byron Review “Safer Children in a Digital World”**” stressed the role of schools: “One of the strongest messages I have received during my Review was about the role that schools and other services for children and families have to play in equipping children and their parents to stay safe online. To empower children and raise the skills of parents, I make recommendations to Government in the following areas:

delivering e-safety through the curriculum, providing teachers and the wider children’s workforce with the skills and knowledge the need, reaching children and families through Extended Schools and taking steps to ensure that Ofsted holds the system to account on the quality of delivery in this area”.

The development and expansion of the use of ICT, and particularly of the internet, has transformed learning in schools in recent years. Children and young people will need to develop high level ICT skills, not only to maximise their potential use as a learning tool, but also to prepare themselves as lifelong learners and for future employment.

There is a large body of evidence that recognises the benefits that ICT can bring to teaching and learning. Schools have made significant investment both financially and physically to ensure these technologies are available to all learners. The benefits are perceived to “outweigh the risks.” However, schools must, through their e-safety policy, ensure that they meet their statutory obligations to ensure that children and young people are safe and are protected from potential harm, both within and outside school. The policy will also form part of the school’s protection from legal challenge, relating to the use of ICT.

At Grange Junior School we have developed an E-safety policy. We also have regular assemblies on safe internet use. This information is also embedded in class when the teachers carry out follow up work. We believe that this area (of Internet/Online Safety) is an ongoing one. Therefore we remain vigilant and committed to equipping our children with the knowledge of how to use the worldwide web safely.