How many icons do you recognise?

Keeping Safe

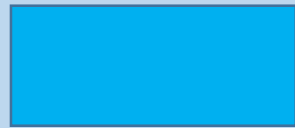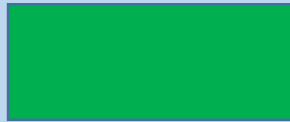## Elmwood Infant School & Nursery

Using the Internet Safely

Why does your child use the internet?

- Share photos and images

- Message each other (sometimes in a group)

- Chat with people via video

- Make voice calls

- Meet new people and chat to strangers

- Play games

- Listen to music

- Research for projects

- Finding pictures for interest, projects etc.

- Emailing family or friends (keeping in touch)

- Looking at school websites

How does your child access the internet?

Over half of 3-4s and 70% of 5-7 year olds use a tablet.

Tablets are now the most often-used device for going online for most age groups

- Where do they access the internet?
- What's stopping them from accessing something inappropriate?
- Who supervises them whilst on the internet?

What are the risks?

Although the benefits of the internet far outweigh the potential dangers, parents must be aware of the very real risks their children may be exposed to online.

Cyber bullying

This is the misuse of digital technologies to bully a person or a group. It is particularly damaging as the abuse follows the target everywhere.

Privacy and information sharing

Most social media sites allow young users to host a public profile. If privacy settings are not applied, the content they publish on their profiles will be accessible to millions of people worldwide.

Digital footprints

The internet is like a giant USB that saves all the things that we publish online. The collective history of this activity is often referred to as a digital footprint, and can be accessed by anyone through a simple online search.

Grooming and sexual abuse

Online grooming is the action of an adult befriending a child with the intent to prepare them for sexual abuse. Social media, interactive gaming and chat rooms can be the first point of contact. Abusers are able to hide behind false online identities and talk to young people with greater ease, out of the direct observation of others.

Inappropriate behaviour

Your child may act with less caution when using the internet. Behaviour can include:

- involvement in visible, public arguments;

- the expressing of opinions that can be interpreted as offensive, extreme or aggressive;

- participation in bullying through commenting on or sharing malicious content.

Sexualisation

Young people, most commonly girls, often feel under pressure to act provocatively or be perceived in a sexual way. This pressure can come directly from peers or partners, or indirectly through the commercialisation of sex in mainstream media and marketing industries. When using the internet, this can motivate young people to:

- post provocative images of themselves on social media;

- perform sexual acts over webcam, send sexually explicit photographs to another person or pressurise others into doing so;

- search for pornographic images and videos.

Exposure to pornographic or violent material

Inappropriate content doesn't have to be intentionally sourced. Often children will stumble across it by chance; disguised under seemingly innocent urls, attachments, or even circulated on leading social media sites
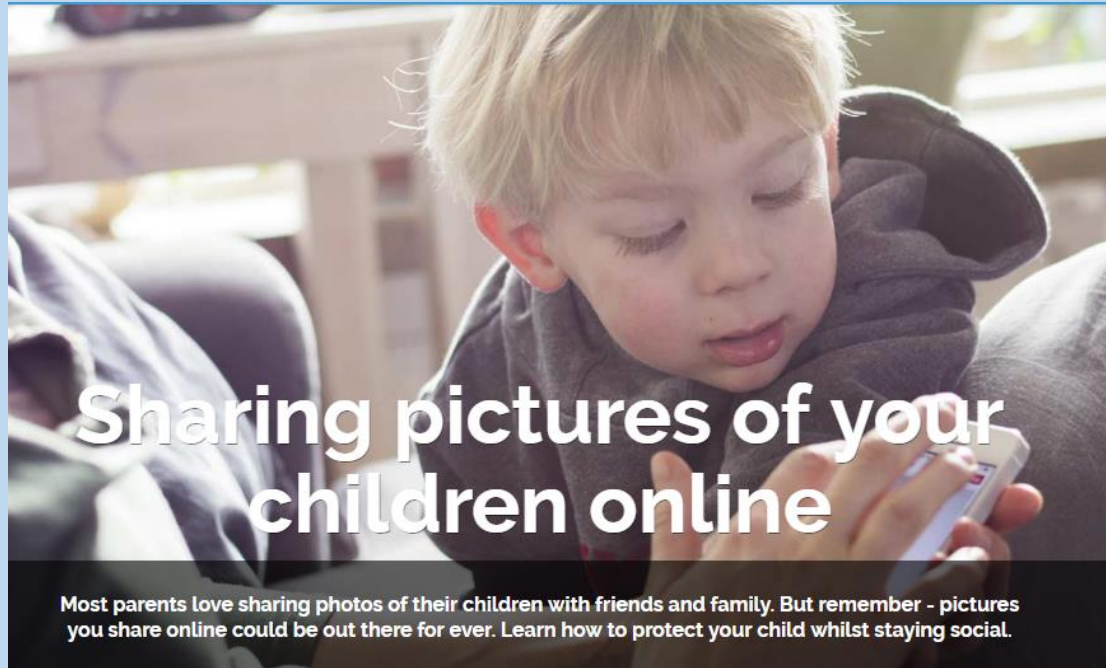
The most concerning material includes:
- ✓ extreme or abusive pornography;
- ✓ excessive violence or explicit physical attacks;
- ✓ hateful material expressing racist, sexist, homophobic or transphobic opinion;
- ✓ harmful advice encouraging eating disorders, self-harm or suicide.

What's being shared by children?

share-aware

- https://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/

What's being shared by you?

Sharing pictures of your children online

Most parents love sharing photos of their children with friends and family. But remember - pictures you share online could be out there for ever. Learn how to protect your child whilst staying social.

Are you a 'sharent'?

For many children online life begins before birth, when their excited parents-to-be post ultrasound images on social media. But before you share, you should give thought to exactly who can see photos and comments featuring your child, and how this online footprint might affect your child in years to come.

What should you consider?

Who's looking? When did you last check your privacy settings? Remember that anyone who can see a photo can also download or screenshot it, and could go on to share it.

What else are you sharing? You might be sharing more than what's in the post.

Ownership - Under the terms and conditions of most social networks, when you share a photo you licence the network to use and reproduce your image, and grant it the right to licence it for use by third parties.

Their digital tattoo - Every publically accessible image or comment featuring your child contributes to a public image which will follow them into the future.

Your child's right to privacy

How are children sharing information?

Snapchat
Snapchat is an app that lets you send a photo or short video to your friends.

Facebook
Facebook is a social network, which lets you create a page about yourself.

Instagram
Instagram is a picture and video sharing app. Users can post content and use hashtags to share with others.

WhatsApp
Whatsapp is an instant messaging app, which lets you send instant messages, images and videos to friends.

What advice can I give my child?

✓ Education is the best tool a child can have; discuss with your child the importance of telling an adult immediately if someone or something upsets them online.

✓ Make sure your child knows that they can come and talk to you (without necessarily getting into trouble) if they see anything that worries them on the internet.

✓ Other immediate strategies to deal with unwanted content or contact include: switching the screen off, close the laptop, exit the website or turn the iPad or phone over and put it down.

✓ Bookmarking sites or creating a 'favourites' list is a simple way to help your child find the content they want without having to search the internet for it.

Useful Info:

❑NSPCC

❑Child Net

❑CEOP

❑Safer Internet Leaflet