

# ONLINE SAFETY

Being online and using internet enabled technology is becoming an everyday part of children's lives. The internet and online technology provides new opportunities for children's learning and development, but it can also expose them to new types of risks. While we don't want to stop children from using technology we want them to be well prepared to use it safely and responsibly.



At Damers First School we teach and support all of our children to use technology safely as well as monitoring their internet usage carefully with our Smoothwall Monitoring and Filtering System. We help guide our children to use technology safely with the following SMART rules in mind:

## SMART RULES

- **Safe** - Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you're chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.
- **Meet** - Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time.
- **Accepting** - Accepting emails, messages, or opening files, images or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems — they may contain viruses or nasty messages!
- **Reliable** - Someone online might lie about who they are and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information.
- **Tell** - Tell a parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone, or something, makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

However, we also understand that much of our pupils' use of the internet will occur at home and as such strive to offer parents and carers as much support as possible. Below you will find helpful tips, hints and information about how to support your child navigate the online world safely and successfully as well as a series of links where you can find out more information or seek additional help and support.

As always, if you are concerned about something your child has seen or experienced online, want some help or advice or simply have a question that's not addressed here, please speak to your child's class teacher who will be happy to help.

## THE GROWN UPS' ROLE

Although this guide is aimed at providing information to help support your children stay safe online it is important that you, as the grown up that your child primarily learns from, model your very best behaviour when online. You might be surprised but your child will pick up lots of online habits from your use of the internet so be mindful of how you interact with others online, what websites, software or games you play around your child and how much screen time your child observes you having.

