



Internet Safety Policy

Created: Sept 2013
Last reviewed: July 17



Internet Safety

At White Trees we recognise that use of the internet in this day and age is a part of every day life for the students in our care. Although the internet is a great place to chat to friends it is important that our students know how to stay safe, and not to become a victim of or participate in cyber bullying or other unsafe practices connected with the internet. At White Trees our aim is to create open relationships based on trust so that the students feel able to report any concerns regarding use of the internet and to feel that staff will address any given situation to stop any misuse of the internet. Safety information is displayed in the area where students may be using computers, this area is also supervised by staff. We are also mindful of the ability of our students to gain access to the web, in places where we may not expect. This situation will be included in all risk assessments when taking students out of the school, and staff are reminded to be mindful of potential opportunities to access the internet.

This policy recognises the dangers that are present and the procedures we use to safeguard our students.

Social Networks, creating a safe profile and chatting in Forums.

Students will be shown how to create a safe profile for when they are online, and be reminded that they will not always know who they are talking to. Most social networking sites allow changes to the security settings on profiles so that they can only be looked at by people who are known, or those allowed to look at it. They also allow you to choose who you are friends with. Staff at White Trees will help students understand how to create a safe profile and will use the following guide, and CEOP training to help students stay safe:

- Never use your real name
- Never tell anyone personal things about yourself or family
- Instead of posting a photo of yourself as a profile, add a picture of a favourite food, place or animal etc
- Don't post photos or videos that you are not happy for everyone to see, as once these are online they can be copied and posted to other sites that you are unable to remove them from
- Keep your password private and do not tell anyone, even your best friend
- When adding friends don't add anyone you don't know, even if they say they know you



- Don't reply to any weird or nasty messages you may receive, save them to show to the School Manager or member of staff
- It is not a good idea to meet people that you have chatted to online, as you can never be sure that they are who they say they are. If you do decide to meet up then tell someone you trust that you want to do this. Arrange to meet in a public place and take an adult you trust with you.

Cyber bullying (See also Respect and anti-bullying policy, and PSHCE policy)

What is Cyber bullying?

Cyber bullying is when a person or a group of people, use the internet, mobile phones or other digital technology to threaten, tease or abuse someone. It's against the law to bully someone in this way or any way and we at White Trees will not tolerate it.

Some of the ways cyber bullies may use to target our students:

Email

Sending abusive emails to someone, or to a group of people, who may then join in the bullying. Sending inappropriate videos, pictures or viruses by email.

Instant messaging and chatrooms

Using instant messaging and chatrooms to send threatening or abusive messages to someone and asking others to join in.

Using another person's account to send abusive messages, without their permission.

Social networking sites

Creating fake profiles for people or leaving abusive messages on existing profiles for others to see.

Mobile Phones/tablets

Sending abusive texts, video or phone message as well as sharing videos of physical attacks on people (happy slapping or blue jacking etc)

Abusing personal information

Posting photos, personal information or fake comments on websites where they can be seen by others.



Although cyber bullying can't physically hurt it can still make our students feel bad, and is a form of emotional abuse. We recognise that no one has the right to make anyone feel like this, and to our students it may seem like there is no way to make it stop - but there is. It is encouraged that students talk to the School Manager, or a member of staff so that they can take action.

Cyber bullies may try to get our students involved in what they are doing as they may not feel that what they are doing is wrong and see it as just having a bit of fun. Students are encouraged to tell them that they do not want to get involved in what they are doing.

Internet use at school

Whilst students are in school, they will not be in a position to access the internet for social media or other forms of social communication. Their access will be monitored through parental control settings. Students will not be allowed to bring mobile phones in to school, and we ask that parents and carers support this (Please see mobile phone policy). Students will not be allowed the wifi key for the school internet system, but clearly if they have their own phone with them, they will have access through their own provider. This makes monitoring of their activity hard. It is for this reason that we ask that mobile phones and tablets are not brought to school. The work outlined above will be part of their personal development work in PSHCE.