

Rowlands Gill Primary School

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9th March 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: VIRTUAL Online Safety Information Session for Parents

Along with the rising appeal of social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, as well as the rise in gaming platforms, there unfortunately is also an increase in the dangers that children are being exposed to online.

Many social media sites have default privacy settings which are set to “public” which means that anyone can view the content that your child posts online. This has resulted in recent media cases where children have been placed in harm’s way because offenders have either accessed their information, their whereabouts, or have been able to join in with online conversations/chats which is part of the grooming process. Many offenders use fake profile IDs and target children by claiming to share the same interests as them.

Top Tips for Parents to keep your child safe online:

1. Talk to your child about what they like to use online.
2. Know who your child’s friends are, both in the real and virtual worlds.
3. Supervise what your child shares online.
4. Have the “never meet” rule – never to meet anyone in real life who they have only met online.
5. Monitor your child’s usage.
6. Set your child’s passwords and regularly check in to make sure they haven’t been changed.
7. Set parental controls / filter what they can access.
8. Educate yourself – keep up with new technology and internet language.
9. Talk to your child about risk.
10. Teach your child about who can help e.g. CEOP.

For more information, please join our virtual e-safety session which has been organised for parents and carers of Rowlands Gill Primary School. This will be held on **Thursday 17th March 2022 4:30-5:30pm via Zoom**. A link to the online session will be sent to all parents via eSchools on the day of the training. If you have any issues accessing eSchools but would like to attend the online meeting please contact the office.

I look forward to seeing you at the online session so that we can ensure our children remain safe online.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'L. Clarke'.

Mrs L Clarke
Headteacher