ONLINE SAFETY

Our nursery is aware of the growth of internet use and the advantages this can bring. However, it is also aware of the dangers and strives to support children, staff and families in using the internet safely.

Keeping Children Safe in Education states “The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into three areas of risk:

* content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful material;
* contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; and
* conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm”

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is ultimately responsible for online safety concerns. All concerns that staff or parents have need to be raised as soon as possible to the DSL.

Within the nursery we aim to keep children (and staff) safe online by:

* Ensuring we have appropriate antivirus and anti-spyware software on all devices and update them regularly
* Ensuring content blockers and filters are on all devices used by children (e.g. Kindle Fire HD tablets)
* Keeping passwords safe and secure, not sharing or writing these down.
* Ensuring management monitor all internet activities in the setting
* Locking away all handheld nursery devices at the end of the day
* Management reviewing all apps or games downloaded to tablets to ensure all are age appropriate for children and safeguard the children and staff
* Staff only using nursery IT equipment for matters relating to the children and their education and care
* Using only approved devices to record/photograph in the setting
* Never emailing personal or financial information
* Ensuring children are supervised when using internet-enabled devices
* Not permitting children to use web browsers, email or messaging services, but only age-appropriate apps
* Integrating online safety into nursery daily practice by discussing computer usage ‘rules’ deciding together what is safe and what is not safe to do online
* Talking to children about ‘stranger danger’ and deciding who is a stranger and who is not, comparing people in real life situations to online ‘friends’

All electronic communications between staff and parents should be professional and take place via the official nursery communication channels, e.g. the setting’s email addresses, the nursery app (Famly) and telephone numbers. This is to protect staff, children and parents.

If any concerns arise relating to online safety then we will follow our safeguarding policy and report all online safety concerns to the DSL.

The DSL will make sure that:

* All staff know how to report a problem and when to escalate a concern, including the process for external referral if they feel it is needed
* All concerns are logged, assessed and actioned upon using the Nursery’s Safeguarding procedure
* Parents are supported to develop their knowledge of online safety issues concerning their children
* The Professionals Online Safety Helpline (0344 381 4772 or helpline@saferinternet.org.uk) is shared with all staff and used if any concerns arise
* They refer to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-protecting-professionals-in-early-years-settings-online-safety-considerations/safeguarding-children-and-protecting-professionals-in-early-years-settings-online-safety-considerations-for-managers> to ensure all requirements are met in order to keep children and staff safe online