

Parental / Carer Agreement: Monitoring My Child's Use Of IT Policy

At New Horizons Seaside Primary, we understand that all the work we do in teaching our pupils to be safe online and to use IT responsibly will only be truly effective if you, our parents and carers, closely monitor your child's online activity at home and critically, your child's use of their mobile phone.

This is why we have put together this Parental / Carer Agreement. We would urge you to please take the time to read the statements in this document and sign below to say you have understood these by selecting the 'Yes' option and submitting the form.

I understand that I need to regularly monitor my child's online activity. This means:

- checking in at some point each time my child is on a device that they are actually doing what I think they are doing;
- checking the search history and website history of my child's online activity;
- talking to my child about what they have been doing online and getting my child to show me and talk me through what they are doing;
- not leaving my child on their own in a room with devices that connect to the internet for any length of time – this includes mobile phones and games consoles.

I understand that I need to regularly monitor my child's use of their mobile phone – checking the content of any messages they are sending and receiving and also who they are messaging.

I understand that since May 2018, the minimum age for using WhatsApp is **16 years old** in the UK.

I understand that all other social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age to access and use their services: this includes Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Musical.ly and Skype.

I understand that whilst there is no age restriction for watching videos on YouTube, users need to be 13 or older to have their own YouTube account (enabling them to subscribe to other channels, like videos, post comments, share their own content and flag inappropriate content).

I understand that the BBFC age ratings for films and series are there to protect my child by ensuring they only watch age-appropriate content and that if I want more information about the content of a film or series before my child watches it, I can use the Common Sense Media website:

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

I understand that setting parental controls on devices, streaming services, internet searches etc is an essential part of ensuring my child's safety while online. I understand that in addition to protecting my child from inappropriate content, parental controls can also set usage times and monitor activity. The link below is a useful resource which explains a whole range of parental controls:

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-parental-controls>

I have read the relevant section (page 8) for Parents / Carers in the New Horizons Seaside Primary Online Safeguarding and Acceptable Use of ICT Policy (see the Policies section under Statutory Information on the school website).

I understand the following points taken from the NHSP Management of Serial and Unreasonable Complaints / Parental and Carer Expectations Policy (see the Policies section under Statutory Information on the school website):

- 1) Pupils' access to online devices outside of school, including mobile phones, for the purposes of social media, is wholly the responsibility of parents and carers.
- 2) Any misuse of social media at home by pupils at Seaside Primary should be dealt with in the first instance by parents and carers through contact with the offender's parents and carers. **Please refer back to the age ratings for the different social media sites and note that in the first instance, no primary age school pupils should, for example, be using WhatsApp.**
- 3) Serious incidences of online bullying should not be deleted from the child's phone and should be taken to the police.
- 4) If the instances of online bullying at home have an impact on pupils' behaviour at school, this behaviour will be dealt with in line with the school behaviour policy. Parents will be notified accordingly and the school expectations will be on parents to resolve the online issues – see point 2.

By selecting the 'Yes' Option below, I agree that I have read and understood all the points covered in the Parental / Carer Agreement: Monitoring My Child's Use Of IT Policy.