

E-Safety Policy

This E-Safety Policy operates under the umbrella of the Safeguarding Policy in relation to electronic communication of all types.

The internet is now regarded as an essential resource to support learning, and computer skills are vital to accessing life-long learning and employment. It is becoming as commonplace as the telephone or television, but unmediated access to the internet brings with it the possibility of placing children in embarrassing, inappropriate or even dangerous situations. It is important for children to learn to be 'e-safe' from an early age and The Ark aims to play its part in this process. Children are encouraged to draw to an adult's attention anything on the internet which concerns them.

In line with other safeguarding policies, The Ark will provide children with as safe an internet environment as possible and teach them to be aware of and respond responsibly to possible risks.

Use of the internet

The Ark's access to the internet is through St. Nicholas Primary School's server, which is filtered by the South West Grid for Learning through Dorset County Council. Nonetheless, it is acknowledged that no filtering is 100% effective and it is the responsibility of staff to monitor websites being used by children.

Staff will guide children in online activities in order to enhance children's learning experiences, for example, by looking at websites related to topics they have been discussing. The internet enables access to a vast array of libraries, databases and other resources, and therefore The Ark believes that the benefits of children using the internet outweigh any disadvantages.

The Ark website

Photographs will only be displayed on our website if parental permission has been obtained. Children's names will not be used on the website particularly in association with photographs. The point of contact on the website is The Ark's address, email and telephone number.

Mobile Phones/Electronic gadgets

The taking of photographs on mobile phones/electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited anywhere at The Ark. Staff must leave their mobile phones in the office or lockers in the staff room.