'Our school, our church, our community'

Elsecar Holy Trinity Primary School
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Elsecar Holy Trinity is a **nurturing**, **inclusive**, Church school where everyone is **valued** as a child of God. We warmly **welcome** people of all faiths/worldviews and backgrounds, fostering **respect**, **compassion** and **forgiveness**. Rooted in **faith**, **family** and **community**, we aim to **grow** together in love, developing **wisdom**, **knowledge** and **aspirations** for a **brighter future**.

Welcome Back – Spring Term

We would like to warmly welcome all our children, families and staff back to school as we begin the Spring Term. We hope everyone enjoyed a happy and restful Christmas break and found time to relax and spend time together.

The new term brings with it fresh opportunities for learning, growth and achievement. Our classrooms are already buzzing with enthusiasm, and we are looking forward to an exciting term ahead, filled with engaging learning experiences, special events and opportunities for our children to shine.

As always, we remain committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment where every child feels valued and encouraged to do their best. Thank you for your continued support — working in partnership with parents and carers plays such an important role in the success and wellbeing of our pupils.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and successful start to the year and look forward to all that the Spring Term will bring.

Pupil Safety

A pupil safety quiz was published on class Dojo this week. This questionnaire helps us understand how safe children feel, who they know they can talk to, and what is working well in our school.

It is essential that all children take part, as their honest answers help us build a clear and accurate picture of pupils' experiences. This information allows us to identify strengths, address any concerns, and continue to improve how we keep children safe and supported.

Attendance Matters

Well done to this week's attendance WINNERS!
Y6 (98.89%)

Whole school attendance:
95.12%
Year to date:
94.51%
School Target:
96%

British Values

Individual Liberty
The 1 Billion Acts of Kindness campaign shows how some individuals choose to use their influence to spread positive messages. People are free to express themselves, while also considering others when sharing their views.

Collective Worship

This half term we are focusing on the Christian value, courage. In worship this week, we discussed Moses and his call by God to return to Egypt to free God's people. The children shared their own tales of being courageous in their own lives, a fear of overcoming heights was clear!

How can we stand up for other people, just as Moses did all those years ago, made courageous by his faith in God?

Dates for the diary

February
Friday 6th February – Class Photos
Monday 9th – Friday 13th February Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 13th February – Last day of term
Monday 23rd February – Back to school for all

March
Thursday 5th March – World Book Day
Monday 9th – Friday 13th March British Science Week
Year 5 Bikeability (takes place during school day)
Friday 20th March – Red Nose Day
Thursday 26th March – Easter Service at 09:30AM
Friday 27th March – Last day of term

April
Monday 13th April – Back to school for all

Playground Language – Working Together

We are currently seeing an increase in the use of homophobic language on the playground. This type of language is not acceptable and does not reflect the values of respect, kindness and inclusion that we promote as a school.

I have spoken directly to children in Key Stage 2 about why this language is harmful and why it will not be tolerated. Pupils have been reminded that words matter, and that language which targets or demeans others is taken seriously.

We would be grateful for parents and carers reinforcing this message at home, helping children to understand that homophobic language — even when used thoughtlessly or as "banter" — is unacceptable in school and beyond. By working together, we can ensure our playgrounds remain safe, respectful spaces for all children.
Thank you for your continued support.

Promoting Local Clubs

If you know of any local clubs looking for new member or clubs you would recommend to other parents, please let us know.

On the next page is our weekly parents' guide from the National College

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 7

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.
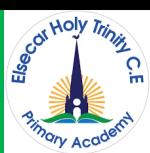
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