

Passwords & Passcodes

Feel free to share your **Gooseberry Alert** content with students, staff and parents. All that we ask in return (in the spirit of modelling positive digital citizenship) is that you acknowledge **Gooseberry Planet Limited as the source of your advice.**

Gooseberry **Student** 'Information' of the week



Passwords and passcodes are like the keys to our house. They keep our information and money safe. Hackers can use sophisticated computer programmes to crack our codes. What can we do to keep our valuable information safe? *[Think about setting passwords on devices; creating strong passwords (mixture of at least 8 characters including letters, numbers and symbols); not using obvious words like "password", "123456", date of birth or football team; not sharing passwords with others (except a trusted adult); not using the same password for lots of different accounts.]*

Try to create a secure password that is easy for you to remember but hard to guess. Consider using a poem, song, book title or saying that is special to you – then use a strategy to make it hard to guess. Ideas include: create an acronym from its words; change the words to be funny or related to you; substitute numbers or symbols for letters. Ask a friend what they think your password might be based on – if they guess correctly, change your idea!

Gooseberry **Teacher** 'Opportunity' of the week



What makes a passcode or password strong and secure? *Being unique and difficult to guess or work out. **Secure Passwords** should contain a mix of at least 8 characters including upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols. They should not contain obvious information that might be known or discovered by others. Never use the word "password", "qwerty", "football", "iloveyou" "abc123" or other obvious sequences. **Secure passcodes** are numbers that are not in any obvious sequence such as 123456 or in a row or line across a keypad. Commonly known dates such as birthdays, 1066 or 2001 should also be avoided. Secure passcodes and passwords are not re-used for other*

accounts and are not displayed anywhere. Schools, like other organisations face security risks and some school IT systems are more vulnerable than others. Passwords are your first line of defence so make sure you don't use the same password for multiple accounts and keep them strong and secure.

Gooseberry **Parent** 'Message' of the week



Is your child aware of the importance of creating strong passwords on their devices? Talk to them about the importance of keeping their phone and online details safe and secure. Encourage them to create a passcode on their phone. This is important as it protects any data that they may have on it as well as preventing friends sending prank messages or images which sometimes cause upset and distress. If a friend needs to borrow their phone, they should enter their code privately and retrieve the device from their friend after use. Remind them to respect the privacy of others and never to take advantage of having access to someone else's device.



Want to know more? Visit us at www.gooseberryplanet.com

Have you seen how children access our games and how we teach them safe passwords from the start?

For Schools who have subscribed to **Gooseberry Play** we recommend students explore:

Ages 5-7 Playground Scenario 3 – Perfect Passwords

Ages 8-9 Street Scenario 2 – Perfect Passwords – Personal Privacy

Ages 9-10 Village Scenario 10 – Perfect Passwords

Ages 11-12 City Scenario 10 – Perfect Passwords, better safe than sorry