

29<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

At the start of the academic year I would like to remind parents of what we are doing to keep your children safe online and how you can work with your child at home to help keep them safe.

### **What we do in school**

- All of our staff are trained and regularly updated on current online safety trends.
- Regular assembly slots – the week before last I led a pre-recorded assembly for all student on 'using the internet safely'.
- Meeting time discussions on current online trends
- Curriculum coverage especially in IT and RSE lessons
- Year 8 student have presentations and workshops with Suffolk Police as part of a whole day 'Challenge Day'.
- We have Online Safety Ambassadors who work in partnership within our school and in partnership with primary schools to promote safer use of the internet across our community.

We have an ongoing dialogue with students encouraging them to check the security settings on their apps, especially social media. Our approach is:

- Make sure accounts are set to private
- Ensure ghost mode in place so that geo-location information is not available
- Do not accept friend requests from people you do not know

We also discuss the 'share-aware' aspect of social media:

- Do not share videos or pictures of your friends/people you know without their consent
- Do not give any information out that might help to identify you (pictures of you in school uniform, addresses, pictures with street signs in etc)
- If something feels uncomfortable, do not respond
- If someone is inappropriate online, screen shot the information, block them and report them
- Do not respond to peer pressure

In the case online harassment or cyber bullying we promote the use of the 'SMART' action plan:

- **S**creenshot any offensive or harassing messages
- **M**ake sure your privacy settings are set so only people you know and trust can see what you post
- **A**void further communication with or retaliation to those sending the messages
- **R**eport the incident(s) to internet service providers' websites and/or social media sites and report to an adult
- **T**alk to a parent, carer, teacher or friend if you are concerned or contact victim support

**What you can do at home**

It would be really helpful if you could share the above information with your child and have regular conversations about staying safe online. Helping them to check their privacy settings particularly on their social media apps would also be advisable.

We are also aware that trends change almost daily in terms of online platforms that students use. National Online Safety produce a weekly update focussing on the most topical issues that parents should be aware of. I would highly recommend that you sign up for this brilliant resource <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/wakeupwednesday>

If you have any concerns about your child's safety or behaviour online please call the school to talk to a member of your child's House team.

I hope this overview is helpful, please contact me at the school should you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully

Neil Fisher  
Online Safety Lead  
Assistant Principal