



10th May 2021

Dear Parents,

The use of social networking has become hugely popular. Many young people are sophisticated in the way they use social media websites and apps, adapting their communication for different audiences, and accessing them from a range of devices such as computers, smartphones, game consoles and tablets. Like all forms of public communication, social media comes with risks.

It has been brought to our attention that a lot of our pupils are using social media to do 'private (group) chats' and share images seemingly unaware of the dangers associated with such open communications in unmoderated chatrooms.

We take our responsibility to educate our pupils on E-safety very seriously. We have had Youth Berkshire who trained pupils to 'Be Internet Citizens', where pupils completed 6 hours of E-safety training and become internet safety ambassadors. In addition, we have spoken in school assemblies and registration about how to make smart choices online and the dangers of excessive use of social media. In addition, we would like to encourage you to speak to your child regarding online safety.

Below are few suggestions on how parents can keep safe internet usage at home:

- Make online time a family activity
- Check filtering of mobile data as well as broadband – but do not rely on this
- Make sure that you know the services your children use
- Keep the computer in a family room and ensure all devices are removed from the child's bedroom at night
- Go online yourself so that you are familiar with and understand the potential benefits and risks associated with Internet access
- Get to know your child's 'online friends' just as you do their other friends
- Let them feel they can discuss any worries with you – even if they have made bad choices
- If you are concerned about your child's online activities, talk to them about it
- Should you become aware of the presence of child pornography online, report this immediately to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, telephone number: 0800 800 500

The internet can be a wonderful place and we believe can be a great benefit to our pupils. Our highest priority is ensuring that children remain safe whilst online and ensuring they know what action to take should they come across anything that is inappropriate or causes them distress.

Here is a parent leaflet (link [here](#)) for information about what online harm is and ways parents can effectively help and support their children.

Should you have any questions or comments on this very important subject please do not hesitate to contact the school. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Maschil De Guzman
Assistant Principal

