



11th June 2024

Online Safety

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been informed today that there is at least one, possibly more inappropriate images being shared by pupils on Snapchat and possibly other social media forums. This has been confirmed by the children involved and others who have seen it.

We must make you aware that the distribution of indecent images of children is a criminal offence. Children sharing pictures of each other is considered distribution of indecent images and therefore we must pass on any information to the police.

If your child is the subject of any of these images or if they receive them, the advice is to keep the pictures and inform the police. They can then decide whether or not they need to seize the phone to trace the image or tell you to delete it.

We have told the children today that if they see anything online or on social media that they know is inappropriate they must tell you and subsequently this can be passed on to the school. We have reminded them that we are here to keep them safe and therefore telling adults what is going on is really important. We have also reminded them that Snapchat, Instagram, WhatsApp, TikTok etc. are not safe platforms for children (they are all rated 13+) and therefore they should ideally not be using them but if they do they need to remember how to keep themselves and others as safe as possible.

We would also encourage you (as you will already be doing) to regularly check your child's phone or tablet and talk to them about who they are engaging with online via various forums. If you can download remote access apps to yours and your child's phone to monitor what they are engaging with online this is useful. We know that children are more vulnerable online but also that for them is part of everyday life. They do not necessarily see inappropriate content as inappropriate or dangerous because it is so prevalent. They often do not recognise the damage that can be done to individuals.

If you have any queries or concerns, please raise them initially with your child's class teacher or with me directly.

Regards,

Antony Kern
Headteacher

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