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Supplementary Information

Online Safety

Technological hardware and software are developing continuously with an increase in functionality of devices that people use. Most children use online tools to communicate with others locally, nationally, and internationally. Access to the internet and other tools that technology provides is an invaluable way of finding, sharing, and communicating information. While technology itself is not harmful, it can be used by others to make children vulnerable and to abuse them.

With the current speed of online change, people may have only a limited understanding of the risks and issues. Parents and carers may underestimate how often their children come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the internet and may be unsure about how to respond. Some of the risks could be:

- unwanted contact
- grooming
- online bullying including sexting
- digital footprint

The school curriculum provides opportunities to support students understanding of how to stay safe online and to raise their awareness of the potential risks. This education is delivered through our Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education (PSHCE) as well as the Computing curriculum.

The school has robust internet filtering and monitoring systems in place, as well as Acceptable Use policies that all students and staff must read and sign to declare they understand them.

In addition, it is both helpful and important for parents and carers to be aware and vigilant to the risks.

The NSPCC provides excellent advice and guidance. I shall summarise these, with the appropriate links, below:

- General advice on having discussions about online safety with your child can be found here: [General discussion advice](#)
- Advice on inappropriate and explicit content, including how to support your child if they see something that upsets or concerns them, can be found here: [Inappropriate or explicit content](#)
- Advice on how to ensure that internet connected devices (e.g. FitBit, smart watches) are kept safe for children can be found here: [Keeping internet connected devices safe](#)

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- Advice on setting appropriate parental controls can be found here: [Parental controls](#)
- Advice on ensuring that children are safe during online gaming can be found here: [Advice on Online Gaming](#)
- Advice on live streaming and online video applications can be found here: [Live streaming and online video apps](#)
- Advice if you are concerned that your child is viewing online pornography can be found here: [Advice when concerned about online pornography](#)
- Net Aware is an excellent online resource for advice and guidance on the latest apps, social media, and video streaming sites. This can be found here: [Net Aware](#)
- Advice on grooming, including online, can be found here: [Advice when concerned about grooming](#)

I should like to bring to your attention concerns about an online subscription service 'Only Fans' and that young people nationally have been using this to sell and appear in explicit videos. There has been a recent article on this by the BBC ['Only Fans' article](#). You can find further information here: [Further information on 'Only Fans'](#)

Cyberbullying and Sexting (sending nude photos) are two online risks that are, sadly, particularly prevalent among teenagers. **The school does not tolerate these in any way. Reported incidents will be investigated and dealt with.**

The school addresses these through our Anti-Bullying policy and our protocols for peer-on-peer abuse, that I outlined in my previous letter.

- Advice on sexting can be found here: [Advice on concerns about sexting](#) **Please note that creating or sharing sexual images of a child under 18 is illegal, even if the person doing it is a child.**
- Advice on bullying, including cyberbullying, can be found here: [Cyberbullying](#)

It is very important that everyone knows how to report any concerns that they have relating to the online safety of a child. There are several ways that this can be done:

1. Reporting a concern via one of the school's safeguarding routes. We would always want a child, colleague, or parent and carer to do this, even if the matter was then referred to an external agency. We can only act and support when an incident has been reported to us.
2. If your child has been a victim of online sexual abuse, or is concerned about someone communicating with them, then a report can be made to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) command. This is part of the wider National Crime Agency. A link can be found here: [CEOP Reporting](#)
3. Your child can also talk to someone through [Childline](#) or the [Internet Watch Foundation](#)