

12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Year 8 – Cyber Bullying & Online Activities

I am writing to all Year 8 Parents and Careers as it is concerning the increasing number of incidents that are being reported to the Year 8 Pastoral Team of inappropriate activities taking place online between students.

Students are using messaging sites such as WhatsApp and Snap Chat (others are available as well) to create groups where inappropriate messaging is shared. The content of which is often graphic, aggressive, hateful, sexist and racist. Students will say things via social media that they wouldn't say in person, the keyboard warrior syndrome, with many comments being threatening towards other students.

As a school we deal with every incident that is reported to us. However, I am concerned not all incidences are reported. Therefore, I am asking parents to be extra vigilant with their children's phones and the different applications they use. As a school, we provide education about the dangers of online activities which is covered through our Personal and Social Development lessons and also during focused assembly topics throughout the year.

In addition to our in-school activities, I recommend the following:

1. Parents and Carers have a conversation about being safe online with your child.
2. Parents and Careers check their child's phone regularly, especially if the contract for the phone is in your name as any inappropriate content shared can be traced to the registered owner of the phone by the police.
3. Report any inappropriate messaging immediately to 101. Especially if the messaging is racist, sexist, or involves any graphic images.
4. Report incidences to the school as necessary and we will act within the parameters of our Rewards Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

The following websites are a good tool for parents and careers to use regarding online safety for children:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>  
<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

If you have any concerns regarding your child and online activities, please do contact the Year 8 Pastoral Team.

Yours faithfully



**Mr N Megaw**  
Assistant Principal

