



St Joseph's Roman Catholic High School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As we continue to educate our pupils during a turbulent time, I'd like to thank you for your support with your child's home learning. For some pupils, parents and staff members, this hybrid model of teaching and learning may continue for longer than we hoped. As a result, more and more people are turning to online resources and spending more time on the internet. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the need to be more vigilant with online safety at this time.

There are many ways you can help minimise the risks associated with children being online and increase online safety in your home – the list below provides ideas for some of the ways you can do this.

- **Talk** to your children about why it is important to stay safe online. Explain that whilst the internet is a fun, exciting and knowledge-rich tool, it is also a place where people may wish to bring them into dangerous activities or expose them to unpleasant material. It is important to be clear that you are not saying your child may never use the internet again, or that everything on it is harmful – it is about teaching them to have a greater awareness and to be able to manage and report any risks.
- Discuss **rules** for being online and draw them up together, including which sites, games, etc., are acceptable. If certain games are off-limits, try to explain why, for example, because of excessive violence. If your child uses online gaming, consider setting rules, such as only talking to others in the same age range and having the conversation on speaker, rather than headphones, so you can monitor it.
- Discuss what information should be **private** and what is ok to share; for example, addresses, names of schools, and names should never be given out to strangers online, as this could allow them to identify where your child goes to school or lives.
- Keep an **open dialogue** with your child – letting them know they can always talk to you about anything that has made them feel uncomfortable online is key to keeping them safe.
- Ensure all devices used by your child are kept in a communal space, or a space where they can be supervised whilst using their devices.

You can access more help regarding online safety from the following places:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

You can also report concerns here:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Yours sincerely,

M.Singleton

Mr M.Singleton
Assistant Headteacher

