April 26th 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

In our continued effort to safeguard our young people at St. Joseph’s and our wider community we are highlighting a national concern around what the DfE have termed ‘self-generated’ child sexual abuse material.

We continue to see an exponential increase in this type of sexual abuse content, created using webcams or smartphones and then shared online via a growing number of platforms. In some cases, children are groomed, deceived or extorted into producing and sharing a sexual image or video of themselves. The images and videos predominantly involve girls aged 11 to 13 years old, in their bedrooms or another room in a home setting. With much of the world subject to periods of lockdown at home due to COVID-19, the volume of this kind of imagery has only grown.  
  
Frequently, these child sexual abuse images and videos have been produced using live streaming services, then captured and distributed widely across other sites by offenders. Once captured, these images and videos can be recirculated for years after they were originally created. ([Self-generated Child Sexual Abuse Online - IWF](https://annualreport2020.iwf.org.uk/trends/international/selfgenerated))

To help prevent the creation of this type of abusive imagery, a campaign has been launched by the [Internet Watch Foundation](https://www.iwf.org.uk/selfgenerated-prevention-campaign) (IWF) backed by the Home Office and Microsoft. It aims to help raise awareness of this type of criminality among parents and carers of young teens, empower and educate girls aged 11 to 13+ to spot the techniques used by sexual predators and give them the knowledge to Block, Report, Tell someone they trust.

Please find a link to the Internet Foundation Website with advice and support for parents about how to protect and safeguard children as much as possible. [Home - talk.iwf.org.uk](https://talk.iwf.org.uk/) . We will also continue this work in school to help educate on the dangers of sharing self images in any context and by promoting safe internet use.

Yours sincerely,

M.Singleton

Mr M. Singleton

Assistant Headteacher