

Date 16th February 2022

Letter to Parents/Carers of Year 6 Children

Dear Parents and Carers

Online Safety

In Year 6 we are seeing and hearing an increasing number of children accessing inappropriate content on their mobile phones/devices whilst at home, including sending offensive messages, with intimidating, aggressive and highly inappropriate language or content.

This has mainly been on WhatsApp but there has been talk amongst the children of them using an app called Omegle. It appears that a lot of Year 6 children are in a number of different groups on WhatsApp, having conversations across a number of friendship groups.

Obviously we can't control what children do in their own homes and how parents wish to parent their children. However, some of the issues that are being brought into school are of increasing concern and are impacting on the lives of the children.

In school we have advised children who are feeling uncomfortable, threatened or upset by messages to leave the groups they are in, discuss it with an adult at home or school or to delete WhatsApp/ Omegle completely.

We are asking that you are vigilant with your children and the messages they are sending or receiving.

The UK SaferInternet Centre has the following tips for parents.

1. Talk to your child about responsible use of their phone- what is okay and not okay to use it for? What are the risks?
2. Talk to your child about what they should do if something upsetting or worrying happens while using it.
3. Explore parental controls, both on the phone and for your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.

Please find attached the National Online Safety guide to WhatsApp and Omegle. You can also download the National Online Safety App which has courses and guides for parents on all aspects of internet safety (see information below)

To create your account, please follow:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/hopton-primary-school> and complete your details.

When you're set up, you'll be able to set 'Parent/Carer' as your user type.

You can access National Online Safety online via any device- including via our brand-new smartphone app. To download the app, please go to:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/national-online-safety/id1530342372>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.nationaleducationgroup.nos>

Alternatively, search for 'National Online Safety' in the App Store/Google Play Store.

Many thanks



Miss Henderson – Designated Safeguarding Lead



Kirklees
Inclusion Quality
Standards 2011

