Online Safety – Guidance for parents, carers and pupils

Our pupils are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. We also know the importance of the myriad of social media platforms as a vital way our pupils stay connected with each other and to allow them to express themselves.

As a school we are committed to ensuring our pupils are equipped with the knowledge needed to utilise the opportunities of the internet and technology in a safe, considerate and respectful way. This is delivered within our PSHCE and RSE programme which is available to view here.

To keep pupils safe within school all pupils are aware of and understand their duty when following the Acceptable Use policy and Behaviour Policy and all internet traffic is filtered and monitored.

However, there are occasions where the internet and social media platforms can have a negative effect on young people. We are also aware that keeping your son safe online is an ever-evolving challenge for parents and carers and as a parent you may be asking yourself 'what is my son accessing online?' and 'how can I keep him safe?'.

As a coordinated approach to support parents, we have compiled a range of links we believe will provide parents and carers information and guidance to support you in your endeavours to keep your son safe online.

CEOP Command

CEOP is a command of the National Crime Agency and works to pursue and prosecute child sex offenders. CEOP works with child protection partners across the UK and overseas to identify the main threats to children and coordinates activity against these threats to bring offenders to account.

If you have a concern about something you or your son has seen or has been affected by online the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command provides clear guidance on how to report concerns.

ThinkuKnow

ThinkuKnow is delivered by the National Crime Agency's CEOP Command with the intention of keeping children and young people safe by providing education about sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. It is underpinned by the latest intelligence about child sex offending from CEOP Command. Their aim is to ensure everyone has access to practical information.

Reporting and Removing Nude Images

The Internet Watch Foundation and the NSPCC's Childline service have an online tool which works to help young people get nude images of videos removed from the internet.

The Report Remove tool can be used by any young person under 18 to report a nude image or video of themselves that has appeared online. The IWF will then review this content and work to have it removed if it breaks the law.

Social Media

The [UK Safe Internet Centre](#) has created an excellent parent-friendly guide to the most commonly used social media platforms and includes links to the external websites of each social media company.

Reporting a Safeguarding Concern

If you do have any concerns regarding online safety or need to report a safeguarding incident linked to online bullying, or any other matter, please email ajackson@ermysteds.uk or call 01756 792186. More information relating to safeguarding at Ermysted's is available [here](#).

Additional online safety information can be obtained from following the two links below:

The [NSPCC](#) have provided information to support parents with their understanding of using 'parental controls' to filter and block inappropriate content across a Wifi network, phone network and devices.

The [UKCCIS](#) have produced a guide for parents whose children are using social media.