The Sittingbourne School

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Thursday, 8 December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Online Safety Update

As we approach the end of Term 2, we would like to take this opportunity to outline the school's approach in keeping young people safe online. In addition, I would like to inform you how we are moving forward in our plan to ensure all students are supported and feel safe when accessing the online world.

We have been working hard over the past 2 terms to provide students and staff with as much information as possible surrounding online safety. Below we have highlighted some of the key activities we have been working on this year:

- We have audited our approach to Online Safety highlighting our strengths and weaknesses.
- We have updated our Online Safety Policy which can be found on the schools website. https://www.thesittingbourneschool.org.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=30.
- We have recently organised a subscription to National Online Safety website:
  - Logins for all staff
  - Access available for all parents/carers
- We delivered Online Safety assemblies to all year groups highlighting the risks of using social media and how to stay safe online.
- We added parental Online Safety Guides to the school website. The guides cover a range of information including apps, websites, trends, games and much more.
- Staff have completed an Online Safety course refreshing and improving their knowledge of online safety.
- We allow discussion time on keeping safe online during Personal Development Time.

Our aim for the remainder of the school year is to:
- Send a monthly "App in Focus" email to all staff to keep them informed of ongoing developments in the world of Online Safety.
- Celebrate Online safety week (Safer Internet Day).
- Deliver assemblies to all year groups about relationships online.
- Continue to provide online safety updates via personal development time.
- Review the Character education and IT curriculum.
- Refresher training course delivered by the Designated Safeguarding Lead to all staff in January.

- All staff to complete the Online Safety training course.

As we move closer to the Christmas holidays we are fully aware that students will have the opportunity to spend more time using their devices and accessing the internet. To support you with this we have provided a number of links to websites and resources that help you work with your child to reduce their screen time. Links are found on the next page to access.

Please also visit our website for further guidance and information regarding how to report any incidents you are aware of. If you are unsure please speak to the Head of Year or Mrs Wheeler.
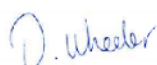
As mentioned above, parents and carers can access the National Online Safety website for free and start utilising all of the amazing resources they have available. From training videos to app guides to advice during summer holidays, they can support you.

Prior to the holidays all students will see a post on their Year Group's Google Classroom highlighting to them the ways in which they can report any incidents at all over the break, whether it be an online issue or something else. We will always encourage students to speak up if they do not feel safe and secure whilst online and hope that they feel comfortable about asking for advice.

If you have any further questions or queries please do not hesitate to email me on orla.wheeler@swale.at.

Please also be advised that the main channel of reporting safeguarding concerns, including online safety concerns remains the same - Mrs Orla Wheeler, Designated Safeguarding Lead, orla.wheeler@swale.at.

Thank you

Mrs O Wheeler
Designated Safeguarding Lead
Senior Assistant Headteacher

Online Safety Links

Local guidance/links:

https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/safeguarding/online-safety/

https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/safeguarding/online-safety/parents-and-carers/

https://www.theeducationpeople.org/blog/engaging-parents-and-carers-with-childrens-use-of-apps-template-letters-for-schools-and-settings/

https://www.theeducationpeople.org/blog/online-safety-alerts-think-before-you-scare/

https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/safeguarding/online-safety/nude-and-semi-nude-image-sharing/

https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/safeguarding/online-safety/vulnerable-learners/

https://www.theeducationpeople.org/our-expertise/safeguarding/online-safety/social-media-and-gaming/

https://www.theeducationpeople.org/blog/online-safety-faq-how-can-we-get-families-more-involved-in-online-safety/

https://www.theeducationpeople.org/blog/anonymous-apps-what-school-s-need-to-know/

General links to share with parents:

https://www.internetmatters.org/

https://www.childnet.com/   https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

https://saferinternet.org.uk/

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

https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/

Specific app guides:

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

https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/social-media-guides

https://parentzone.org.uk/advice/parent-guides   https://www.commonsensemedia.org/ - American based app reviews etc. but still very useful

https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/