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St Paul's Catholic Primary School

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10th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you all to request your assistance regarding online safety due to the rapid growth of social media and the increased number of children having access to a range of electronic devices as well as smart phones.

We are experiencing more and more incidents of our children using and misusing social media accounts like Tik-Tok, Snapchat and Whatsapp whilst at home. This is then leading to upsetting issues in school, which are having an impact on the well-being of all concerned - not only regarding friendships but also lost learning time.

While we take our responsibility very seriously in terms of educating our children to be safe in a digital world, it is very difficult for class teachers and teaching assistants to resolve issues that happen out of school, as we do not have access to all the information. As you can imagine it is also incredibly time consuming and takes away from teaching and learning in school.

Therefore, I request that as responsible parents and carers, you ensure that your child is aware of **your** expectations when they use any social media device or phone. You should be aware of, and monitor, the sites they access, many of which have age restrictions much higher than that of your child. If you have any concerns about your child's use of a device, it is essential that you take responsibility for resolving this issue which may mean that you need to speak not only to your child but also to another child's parents to alert them too.

As a school, we will continue to educate, support and guide our children. We can offer support and guidance to parents too, through our website online safety tab or by advising or signposting you as necessary – please contact the school office who can arrange you to speak to your child's class teacher, Mrs Cooke (Online Safety Lead) or myself. However, we cannot effectively monitor and resolve issues that happen out of school – this is where parental responsibility is essential.

You may find it useful to refer to the online safety letter sent to all parents in February (a copy is on the website under the Parent/Carers - Letters to Parents tab) as well as our online safety tab on the school website where you will find up to date guidance.

A reminder too, that children should not bring mobile phones or electronic devices into school with them. If your child does need to bring a phone then it must be switched off before entering the school grounds and handed into the school office on arrival. Likewise, the phone must not be switched on until your child has left the school grounds. Parents should contact the school office to let us know their child is bringing a phone.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance and support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Sinclair
Head teacher

