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St Paul's Catholic Primary School

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11th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today is Safer Internet Day: the theme 'Together for a better internet' highlights the importance of ensuring that our children learn how to be safe in a digital world. Our message to our children is "BE SAFE, BE KIND."

As you will be aware, online safety is a key area of our school safeguarding policy as well as our computing policy. Children are taught how to be safe online as part of their PSHE and Computing curriculum. This is something that we do throughout the year, not just on Safer Internet Day. Our responsibility also extends to supporting parents and carers so that you can ensure you too are able to ensure your child is safe online.

From time to time, parents raise concerns about online safety often related to social media sites that children access and then send messages to each other, which are unkind and hurtful.

On other occasions however, we are aware that some online games, aimed at children, allow 'chats' between groups of people, some of whom are known to children but some not. This is a cause for concern and leaves children vulnerable if not supervised carefully by responsible adults.

If children are accessing such games whilst using a device unsupervised, perhaps in their bedroom, it is difficult to monitor who they are 'chatting' to and what the conversation is about.

We are aware that some of our children do have devices in their bedroom and use them unsupervised. This is not recommended for children of primary school age.

Privacy settings and parental controls are essential tools to help support online safety, but do not take the place of a responsible adult monitoring closely what their children are accessing.

Several parents attended our Online Safety workshop in November; following this event, our Online Safety tab on our school website was updated with a wealth of information about internet safety including advice about apps and age restrictions. There is also an information pack in the school porch you may loan to look at if you would find this useful.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Many thanks for your anticipated support and action.

Yours sincerely,

S. Sinclair

Mrs. S. Sinclair

