



**St Paul's Catholic
Primary School**

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3rd September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have received some information from Cleveland Police which we would like you to be aware of.

Cleveland Police Paedophile Online Investigation Team (POLIT) have reported that they are aware that over 200 Child Sexual Exploitation Crimes have been reported to them over the past 6 months. In order to protect children, they are asking us all to warn young people about the dangers of speaking to people on the internet.

POLIT Sergeant Kev Carter said: "Protecting children is what drives every member of my team. The difficult truth is that many people are not fully aware of what truly goes on online between their children and internet strangers. With more and more children using the internet on various devices, it is increasingly important that we educate children and parents on the dangers. There are dangerous people out there who will not hesitate to exploit young people."

Children can become victims of abuse on the internet through online games, social networking sites and apps such as Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, which they can access through devices including tablets, mobile phones and games consoles."

We all need to take our responsibility to protect our children. Our school curriculum, even from the Early Years, teaches children how to be safe and, as parents we know you will do the same. Teaching children how to use the internet safely is essential and is a key area of our Computing curriculum as well as our Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. To support you at home, there is a wealth of information and advice on our school website – go to the Information Tab and select 'Online Safety' It also includes information about age restrictions on social media usage. As well as this, Cleveland Police have supplied the following link to help protect children while they are online <https://bit.ly/2QvNetS>

As always, if you have any queries or concerns then you can contact myself as Safeguarding Lead or Mrs Cooke as Online Safety Lead.

Yours sincerely

Sheena Sinclair
Head Teacher

