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Dear Parents and Carers,

At Linden Road Academy we know that children can reach their full potential only when they feel safe, secure and supported. As a result, we are committed to preventing and addressing bullying behaviours. It has come to our attention in recent weeks that there have been separate instances in which some of our pupils have been subjected to bullying type behaviour via the use of internet sites accessed at home and text messaging. All of these instances have been to and from pupils in Year 6 and the amount of time spent dealing with these issues within school is beginning to impact on learning at what is a very important time of the year.

Additionally, there is a prevalence of both racist, misogynistic and anti-immigrant language within Year 6, much we believe is related to gaming experiences on Xbox and PlayStation where children are playing games unsuitable for their age.

As a school staff, we understand the importance of working in partnership with you. Unfortunately, we can all no longer presume that what is being accessed on the internet by our children is completely safe and innocent. Despite school sessions on internet safety and cyber-bullying, it appears that some of our pupils still choose to misuse the internet.

We ask that you take time to speak to your child about this very important issue and regularly monitor devices such as iPads, laptops and mobile phones. We also ask that children do not play on or have access to games which are rated PEGI, 12, 16, 18, such

as “Call of Duty”, “Grand Theft Auto”. If children know that their movements online are monitored, they’ll be more likely to use it sensibly.

You can access more information on our website using links to the h²bsafer and Think U Know. Please also refer to our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy and pegi.info.

As always, your support with this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Ives,
Principal.