Online Safety Update – July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are coming to the end of the academic year and hopefully starting to wind down for a restful Summer.

For July's Online Safety update, we will be looking at online grooming. Summer can be a time that young people spend more time online than usual. They may forget the lessons we have been teaching them about avoiding talking to strangers.

Sadly, children with SEND can be more vulnerable to online grooming due to a variety of reasons including that they tend to be more socially isolated, and may not understand when they are being manipulated.

Try these top tips to keep your child safe:

Monitor their friend/contact lists online

Check ALL the websites they use – are they communicating with people on there, and if so, do they know them in real life? Remember you can communicate via Youtube and through Online Games.

Talk to them about what to do if someone tries to talk to them who they don't know.

Set a rule that if someone asks for a picture of them, they must tell you – whether or not they know the person in real life.

Keep in mind, that if you are worried your child is being groomed or exploited online, you can report this to a specialist police command called CEOP. Try to carefully write down the username of the person who is talking to your child so they can be monitored by the police.

www.ceop.police.uk

For help with this and anything else to do with your child's safety, please do not hesitate to contact the pastoral team on 0121 569 7080