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Chair of Governors: Mr R. H. Sperr



21st June, 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

URGENT
YEAR 5 & YEAR 6 PARENTS / CARERS
MISUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE MESSAGING SERVICES

The 'Safeguarding' of pupils at Thrunscoe Primary and Nursery Academy is of the utmost importance to us. As you can appreciate, should issues of an e-safety / safeguarding nature be raised within the academy we are duty bound to make you aware of concerns linked to these.

We have recently been informed that a number of our pupils have been sharing inappropriate images / videos of others across a number of social media platforms (SNAPCHAT, WHATSAPP, MESSENGER). This is of great concern to us and is causing huge upset to pupils.

Having investigated it further, it is also apparent that some children are making reference to these images / videos within the Academy causing further upset to pupils. This will not be tolerated.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- Should your child receive inappropriate images from other pupils then you are at liberty to contact the Police
- Such misuse of social media and messaging services are a criminal offence. Therefore, should you choose to allow your child to access such software then it is important that you speak with your child about how to act appropriately online
- It is also critical that your child's online use is limited and monitored to ensure their safety and well-being is maintained. There are also numerous apps that parents can download onto their phones to enable them to monitor their child's safe online behaviour (**GOOGLE FAMILY LINK APP; PARENTAL CONTROL APP, FAMILYLINK APP**)

WHAT WE HAVE, AND WILL DO, AS AN ACADEMY TO SAFEGUARD YOUR CHILD:

All Y5 and Y6 pupils have been spoken to as a whole to make them aware that:

- We as an academy are aware of some pupils sharing inappropriate content of other pupils on social media platforms
- Sharing of inappropriate content is illegal and that in sharing the content they would be complicit in the damage that it creates
- They need to delete the shared images immediately and report the image to the social media platforms on which they have shared the content
- Parents will be contacted via telephone or letter (which ever has been deemed appropriate)
- If they have seen the content that they should report it to us today
- If they have shared the content that they should report it to us today
- That the Police are to be contacted today
- Specific lessons will be delivered by staff over the next week to discuss the dangers and consequences of such behaviour and how to respond appropriately to such incidents

I would greatly appreciate it if you could discuss with your child the severity and harm that such actions can have: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Has-your-child-shared-a-picture-or-video-online/>

Your support on this matter is sought urgently and greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Bate
Headteacher



2022-2025