Dear Parents and Carers, welcome to June’s Safeguarding letter

**Cyber Flashing**

Cyber-flashing is when a stranger sends an explicit picture, uninvited, to your phone via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth.

It’s sexual harassment and most likely to happen on public transport or in crowded places.

The file-sharing app AirDrop for iPhone and iPads is most commonly associated with cyberflashing, but there are lots of different file-sharing apps out there. With AirDrop, it’s easy for anyone to send you images. The automatic preview feature means you also see images without actually opening them.

**3 steps to help keep your child safe**

1. Restrict who can send files to your child’s phone Most file-sharing apps allow users to restrict who can send files to them by Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Find out which apps your child uses, then make sure your child knows how to use these settings. For AirDrop on iPhones: Open ‘Control Centre’ (swipe up from the bottom of the screen or down from the upper-right corner, depending on the model) Press firmly on the network settings card in the upper-left corner. This will open more connectivity controls Tap and hold the AirDrop icon Select ‘Contacts Only’, or ‘Receiving Off’ (to not receive AirDrop requests) Or, do this by going to Settings > General > AirDrop. Some of the other most popular file-transfer apps include: Google Drive Dropbox, Microsoft OneDrive, AirDroid, Zapya Make sure your child knows to only accept files from people they know.

2. Turn off Bluetooth when not using it Otherwise, it’s easy for strangers nearby to send images to your child’s phone. To do this on iPhone, open ‘Control Centre’ then tap the Bluetooth icon . The icon dims when it’s off. On Android, swipe down from the top (you might need to do this twice or scroll across). Then tap the Bluetooth icon to turn it off. It will be grey when Bluetooth is off.

3. Make sure your child knows what to do if it happens to them If your child doesn’t feel in immediate danger, they should take a screenshot and report the incident to the police using the non-emergency numbers: If it happens on public transport, text 61016 or call 0800 40 50 40 If it happens anywhere else, call 101 **If your child feels scared or in immediate danger, they should call 999.** They should also move to a safe place – find someone in authority to talk to like platform staff, a security guard or a shop manager. If it happens in school, your child should talk to a trusted adult immediately and this will be reported immediately to our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

**KCSIE 2024**

**The latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education has been released by the DfE and will go ‘live’ on 1st September**

**Please don’t forget that we are here to help with advice you can speak to Mr. Grant**

**01695-721487**

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Regards Andrew Grant -DSL