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

The Online Safety Act has just received Royal Assent !

This is absolutely amazing news 😊

Thanks to the incredible campaigning of abuse survivors and young people and the dedicated support of Parliamentarians and Ministers, tech companies will be legally compelled to protect children from sexual abuse and avoidable harm.

The new laws take a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm, while empowering adults with more choices over what they see online.

The Act places legal responsibility on tech companies to prevent and rapidly remove illegal content, like terrorism and revenge pornography. They will also have to stop children seeing material that is harmful to them such as bullying, content promoting self-harm and eating disorders, and pornography.

The consequences of not complying with the new law

If social media platforms do not comply with these rules, Ofcom could fine them up to £18 million or 10% of their global annual revenue, whichever is biggest – meaning fines handed down to the biggest platforms could reach billions of pounds and their bosses could even face prison. In anticipation of the Bill coming into force, many social media companies have already started making changes. TikTok has implemented stronger age verification on their platforms, while Snapchat has started removing the accounts of underage users.

Home Secretary Suella Braverman said:

“This landmark law sends a clear message to criminals – whether it’s on our streets, behind closed doors or in far flung corners of the internet, there will be no hiding place for their vile crimes. The Online Safety Act’s strongest protections are for children. Social media companies will be held to account for the appalling scale of child sexual abuse occurring on their platforms and our children will be safer. We are determined to combat the evil of child sexual exploitation wherever it is found, and this Act is a big step forward”.

Mr Grant said:

“ At last it feels as if we have more of a chance in the battle against abuse for our children”.

Brilliant news!

Mr Grant, a very happy DSL

THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023 IS HERE !