

All Saints Inter-Church Academy

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March
Cambridgeshire
PE15 8ND



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Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to make you aware of an issue that has recently been brought to our attention involving a group chat used by some children within Year 6.

Whilst we recognise that social interactions outside of school are primarily a family matter, we have become aware that, at times, some of the messages shared within this group have included inappropriate, undesirable or unkind language. Such communication has the potential to cause upset and distress to others.

While these interactions are taking place outside of school, they can still have a significant impact on pupils when they attend school. We have been informed that some children are feeling anxious about coming to school because they are concerned that these issues may continue here. Experiences and interactions outside of school can affect children's wellbeing, confidence and friendships and we have seen that issues arising from online conversations can sometimes negatively impact pupils during the school day. We would therefore ask for your support in monitoring the online groups and platforms that your child may be accessing. We also encourage families to have regular conversations with their children about responsible online behaviour, including the importance of treating others with kindness and respect and considering the impact that words can have on those receiving them.

The NSPCC provides helpful information and guidance for parents regarding cyberbullying, social media use, online risks and practical ways to support children to stay safe online. This information can be found here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

As children move towards secondary education and gain greater independence online, it is important that they develop the skills and understanding needed to communicate responsibly and respectfully in digital spaces. Regular conversations at home about online conduct, friendship groups and the potential consequences of online interactions can play a valuable role in helping children make positive choices.

At school, we will continue to support pupils through our RSHE curriculum, which includes learning about positive relationships, respectful communication and online safety. In response to recent concerns, we will also be delivering additional age-appropriate sessions next week focused on online behaviour, responsible social media use and the impact that online interactions can have on others. Our aim is to help pupils develop the knowledge, understanding and confidence needed to navigate the online world safely and respectfully.

As always, we are committed to supporting our pupils to develop positive relationships and to use technology safely and responsibly. Thank you for your support in helping us promote these values both in and out of school.

If you have any concerns or would like further guidance regarding online safety, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Regards,

Mrs S. Johnson
Head of School



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Diocese of Ely



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EAST ANGLIA