

12 September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Safeguarding - Online/Internet Safety Reminder

As we embark on a new school year, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind all parents/carers about the important role they have in monitoring and supporting their children to be safe online, and to provide helpful related information.

The vast majority of young people make use of the internet to play, shop, socialise and complete school work. Whilst web based activity can be useful and enjoyable it can also present many challenges and risks if not carefully managed. Young people can be easily influenced and we must all work together to ensure that they are not exposed to inappropriate content and/or to other risks associated with unrestricted online activity.

I would like to draw parents'/carers' attention to the web based information/resource linked below. This website contains a wealth of useful information, advice, guidance and other links related to internet safety. As a parent you can search by age, topic or concern.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

We know from recent student voice (based on an NSPCC audit) that some of our pupils are using a number of online apps in their own time which are illegal for their age groups e.g., Instagram and WhatsApp. I have, therefore, also directly linked a sub-section of the same website below which relates directly to social media and contains useful reminders about the minimum age limit for many of the most popular social media sites ('social media apps min age'):

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/>

I would strongly advise all parents/carers to review this information and have regular discussions at home regarding safety online. Parents/carers should also remain vigilant to the signs that something may be wrong. The website linked above contains guidance on how these duties can be done most effectively.



Our school website also contains useful safeguarding links and advice which can be found by following the link below:

<https://springfield.uk.net/index.php/school-life/safeguarding>

Should you have further related questions or concerns please make contact, in the first instance, with your child's respective year office team.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Wilburn
Deputy Headteacher

