

Friday 1 March 2019

Re: Online safety

Dear Parents and Carers

We are sure that many of you will have heard about a recent online scare aimed at young people that is currently being spread on social media sites including You Tube, Instagram and Snapchat etc.

We have been in touch with the Sheffield Safeguarding Board representative responsible for advising about online safety and they suggest that we **do not** alert children (or parents/carers) to the specific risks around any individual named site as this will only encourage them to search for it. We are advised to continue to push the “good practice message” of:

- only joining groups that they know other people are using and are safe
- parents should monitor their children’s social media use, especially if they are young or particularly vulnerable

The best advice that we are given by the police and other agencies working with children and young people around online safety is to regularly talk to your children about their online use, check devices (and let them know that you are checking it) and, whenever possible, have an open door policy to use of technologies in your house – i.e. anyone could come into the room at any time whilst they are on their devices.

We have had our Smoothwall filters checked this week (as we do have every week) to ensure that no malicious or unsuitable content can get through into school and we will continue to talk to all children about safe use of computing equipment. Children continue to not be permitted to access the internet in school without supervision from an adult. You may find the image (right) useful for setting up your own security on devices at home.

Please do be vigilant when your children are playing games or communicating with each other and do also let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Hardy
 Head Teacher

Guy Willatt
 Deputy Head

Nicole Ramsey
 Deputy Head