



Childwall Abbey School

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Headteacher
Mrs C. Piercy



7/1/20

IMPORTANT E-SAFETY UPDATE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS DURING LOCKDOWN

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Childwall Abbey School, we strive to ensure pupils are kept safe at all times. In today's world, children are very vulnerable to inappropriate messages and material online.

During national Lockdown and Remote Learning, Parents and Carers need to be even more vigilant. Children are expected to access work via our online learning Hub and Teams. Their access, including ensuring it is being accessed at appropriate times of the day, should be monitored. Our staff are doing this during school hours and will contact home if there are any concerns. Our Safeguarding Team led by Mr Maloney remains fully available.

Parents/carers of our pupils must monitor their child's access to and use of mobile devices and any other method of exchanging information. There are strict legal guidelines for accessing on-line sites. Parents/carers must make themselves familiar with these. *WhatsApp have just announced a change to their terms and conditions for users based in Europe. Users will now need to be 16 to use WhatsApp. Nearly all other social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age to access and use their services. This includes Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Musical.ly and Skype. Whilst there is no age restriction for watching videos on YouTube, users need to be 13 or older to have their own YouTube account. (More information is available on the UK Safer Internet Centre website.)*

Please note that laptops, tablets, Playstations, X-Boxes, Nintendo Switch etc allow communication with groups. Use of these devices must be monitored as they frequently cause difficulties. Parents/carers should familiarise themselves with apps used by their child to ensure they are safe.

If your child becomes involved in any unpleasant exchange with another pupil, (e.g. name calling, verbal threats, sharing inappropriate images or material, nuisance calls or calls at late hours), it is your responsibility to deal with that situation immediately, as a parent/carer. If you become aware of any illegal activity or serious behaviour, taking place outside the school day, please report this to the police, so that swift action is taken to protect your child and others. Do not wait for school to deal with such urgent matters, as time is often of the essence and we will not have the relevant information.



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It is also vital that parents discuss with their child whether and when it is appropriate to share their phone numbers and contact details with children or adults outside their family. Pupils need to understand how to manage this safely. If they cannot do so, parents must consider whether their child is ready to manage the responsibility of having their own phone. **No parent or carer should ever contact another child by phone or other device, using contact details shared between their child and another pupil.**

Please let us know of any E-safety issues occurring during the school day.

Should we become aware that communications between pupils outside school hours are causing problems, parents/carers will be contacted by Senior Staff. **Our Safeguarding lead is Mr Maloney, Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Shaw.** We also take advice from our Safer Schools police officer.

Please contact the safeguarding team with any concerns via the dedicated email address - **safeguarding@childwallabbeysschool.net**

Please check the **Useful Links** on our website Parents Page for support and guidance regarding E-safety. (**Digital Parenting Magazine, Parent Zone, DfE guidance on Cyber bullying, NSPCC Net Aware, Digital 5 a day, UK Safer Internet Centre.**)

This is a constantly developing challenge, made more complex by the current Lockdown. Thank you for working with us to keep all our children safe.

Mrs C.M.Piercy (Headteacher)