



26th February 2019

Online Safety and Online Behaviour

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing in regards to a couple of matters – online safety and online behaviour.

Online Safety

We wanted to bring to your attention a couple of online safety announcements that have been made in the national media and through social media.

Skit/Skits/SKIT! apps – different versions of apps that enable users to upload their own or someone else's videos – either of themselves/someone else and one advertises they could 'get paid'. This is supposedly a 'safe site for tweenies', however, there are reports of users being asked/coerced into uploading videos.

Momo – via different media platforms – WhatsApp, YouTube etc. – a game that asks users to do increasingly serious challenges and has been linked to the suicide of a 12 year old girl. Police forces have raised their concerns. Worryingly Momo videos are being added to children friendly videos, such as Minecraft, with disturbing images asking the challenger to carry out various dares.

Online behaviour

In school we are dealing with an increasing amount of incidents that have been fuelled by online behaviour outside of school, some of which have become serious enough to involve the police and social care.

Whilst as a school, we will always take our duty of care seriously, to keep your child safe and educate them. We have no control over the behaviour of our students outside of school, however, we will always offer families support through various sessions, such as the online safety sessions and updates through letters or our newsletters, parent/carer e-safety sessions and support from our PCSO. We have tried to share information and give you the tools to support your child to manage their online behaviour.

Alongside the specific support for online safety we have a large pastoral team that are always available to offer more bespoke 1-1 support, and we have links to other services such as TARGET through Service Six (please see links at end of this letter).

Our job as a school is to prepare your child for adulthood through giving them the tools to be successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens, and we will design our curriculum and structure the day and school to enable this.

However, though it may be a hard message to hear, your child's behaviour outside of school is your responsibility, and it is unacceptable that some children are coming into school feeling unsafe because of the online actions of a few. As such we will follow up and, if necessary, pass on to the appropriate agencies.

Please remember that Alex Franklin, our link PCSO, is leading a session for parents/carers on gang-related crime, which is a police local initiative across Northamptonshire. Information has previously been sent out - the session starts at 1.30pm on Thursday 28th February; just turn up (please remember that there is no on-site parking).

If you would like to discuss any of the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully



Kevin Latham

Useful links:

CEOPS - <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Target Service Six - <http://www.servicesix.co.uk/target.html>

CIRV - <http://www.aimonline.org.uk/>

Childnet - <https://www.childnet.com/>

NSPCC - <https://www.childnet.com/>

Childline - <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/>