



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

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ACTING HEAD OF SCHOOL Miss Elise Gribble

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 8th February, it is important for us to think about how safe our children are online.

There are a lot of children, who attend our school, that have frequent access to inappropriate content through TikTok, Snapchat and other applications. When this access is challenged, we are always assured that the access and usage is monitored and that your child is mature enough to know when something is not safe.

Having attended the Local Authority Safeguarding update yesterday, I was horrified by the recent statistics in relation to child sexual abuse material that has been found online. Some of this content was classed as 'self-generated', where children had been groomed by predators to create explicit images or videos.

There was a three-fold increase in imagery showing 7–10-year-olds who have been targeted and groomed by internet predators. As I am sure you are aware, this puts our lovely children at great risk and I felt it was only appropriate to share this information with you.

I have attached the slide from the training that my Safeguarding Team attended as I feel this National situation will only get worse unless we are more aware of the risks. I have also attached a link to a recent news report on this topic.

<https://www.itv.com/news/2022-01-13/2021-worst-year-on-record-for-child-sexual-abuse-online>

In school, your children are totally safeguarded from this risk as they have no access to these applications or chatrooms, plus we have strict filtering on all internet devices.

Please continue to protect your children at home by:

- checking their devices daily
- monitoring contact and use of applications
- educating your children about the risks of online contact
- educating your children on what they should and should not be sharing

One of my greatest concerns is the uploading and sharing of videos on public platforms. This is a common concern that is shared with us and it makes your children very vulnerable no matter how innocent it may seem.

I apologise for the seriousness of this email but I would not forgive myself if any of our children were put at undue risk from online predators or over exposure. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards
Miss Gribble
Acting Head of School

Website

www.olicatschools.org

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