22 March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Keeping Children Safe Online and Pupil Mobile Phones

Accessing Online Technology

Over the last few months we have seen an increase in the number of incidents that parents are reporting to us where pupils have either accessed age inappropriate material; experienced friendship problems using Apps and Games (eg Whatsapp; SnapChat; Roblox etc) or we are worried that parents are not aware of who their children are talking to while gaming. In a world where the use of technology underpins our daily way of life we wanted to find a way to help parents navigate the wealth of information that is out there and support their children to access technology safely.

If we asked ourselves "Do I know how to play the game that my child is on right now?" How many of us could say yes? Have you ever played with your child online? Do you know how Snapchat and Snapmaps works? Are you confident that you could find hidden apps on your child's devices? Do you routinely check your child's devices including television logins to Netflix etc? For many of us it would be a no. Over the coming weeks we are going to send out a quick guide each week to an app, game or workaround on a device for you to understand how to support your child to be safer online. These will be in the Head of School update published every Friday on the website under the Lastest News tab. The aim is to help parents and children become more tech savvy and increase awareness around the dangers of incorrect usage but also to promote a safe and transparent relationship with all technology.

Mobile Phones

We are aware that an increasing number of children in school have a mobile telephone of their own. As a reminder children should only bring their phones into school if they already have permission to walk to/from school, and this applies to Year 5 and 6 children. These phones are then handed into class teachers each day. All other year groups must be accompanied to and from school grounds and should not have mobile phones with them in school.

Abi Carter
Head of Schools MIJS