

Friday 13th October 2023

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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Dear Parent/Carer,

Digital safety

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting your child's education and overall development, we believe it is essential to regularly communicate with parents/carers to address the challenges and opportunities posed by the ever-expanding world of mobile devices and online platforms. We want to empower you with information and resources to help your child navigate the digital landscape safely and responsibly.

In this digital age, mobile devices and online platforms play a significant role in your child's life. They offer incredible benefits, such as access to educational resources, communication with friends and family, and entertainment. However, along with these advantages come potential risks that we must be aware of and manage together.

To assist you in this endeavour, we have collaborated with the National College and National Online Safety to provide you with valuable resources and information on online safety. Our goal is to ensure that you, as parents/carers, can make informed decisions about how best to support your child in using their device safely and responsibly. Please find below the link to National Online Safety if you would like to find out more about any other topics around online safety for your child, then please enrol on the platform as a parent/carer using the link below, you will then have free access to webinars, courses and guides about existing platforms and new platforms as they are introduced.

https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/chatham-grammar

In this letter I wanted to highlight how we work with students to ensure they are kind online. We regularly remind and encourage all students to be sensitive, positive and respectful online, students can send evidence of a kind message or act online to bekindonline@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk to receive leadership points as a reward.

We frequently share with students the need to perceive messages and communications online, especially on social media and in group chats, from the perspective of the person receiving them. We also explain what constitutes a post being potentially classed as online bullying and that these types of messages online can impact another persons' self-esteem, confidence and social skills.

If a student feels that any online communication is not kind or appropriate, it is important to report it to a trusted adult. Students are encouraged to speak with their PT in the first instance, we also have pastoral support available to help. If students would prefer to report via email, they can use refernow@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk







Please find attached a guide to help support your child with the use of group chats. This guide, plus many more can also be located on our academy website https://www.chathamgrammar.org.uk/esafety

I am aware that Ms Perkin will also be writing to update you on our monitoring systems. Thank you for your partnership in ensuring a safe and enriching digital experience for your child. Together, we can empower them to make responsible choices in this ever-evolving digital world.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Sanger E-Safety Lead









WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

BULLYING

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO



Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Meet Our Expert



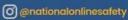




National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday



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