



Radnor House
— SEVENOAKS —
celebrating every individual

9 September 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

Recent Viral Social Media Video

Following recent media stories regarding a viral video being shared on social media, we feel it is a good opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of online safety with our parents and carers. We have sought advice and would like to share the following information with you.

Viral videos can contain graphic or distressing imagery; we strongly recommend this is not shared with children. It is also important to recognise that by mentioning specific media, we may encourage children to explore something that they were previously unaware of, either out of curiosity, or because they want to feel involved in what everyone is talking about.

Online safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Radnor House Sevenoaks and is taught to all pupils as part of the PSHE curriculum during assemblies and tutor time. Our curriculum empowers children to become critical thinkers and to understand how they can stay safe and behave appropriately online, but we can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you.

Talk to your child

- We would not recommend naming particular media or sharing potentially frightening images specifically with children as this can cause them significant upset and distress.
- It's important that parents find out and learn about what children are doing online; find out what your child is looking at, and judge for yourself if it's appropriate.
- Learning together with your child can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour online. By having regular and open conversations with your child, you'll provide them with an opportunity to share any concerns they may have.
- www.childnet.com and www.thinkuknow.co.uk has some useful tips and ideas for parents about starting conversations about online safety
- If your child has been exposed to distressing content, then it's important not to dismiss their worries. It's worth listening to them to help them feel reassured and safe.

Understand technology

- Discuss together as a family how the internet will be used in your house and set clear boundaries regarding time-limits, supervision and what they can access.
- Visit sites like www.internetmatters.org and www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/a-parents-guide for advice about parental controls on consoles and devices.
- Make sure you read any parental guidance and safety recommendations (including age requirements – most popular social networking sites and apps are only for users aged 13+,

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Head Fraser Halliwell

16+ or 18+); visit www.net-aware.org.uk to find out information about some of the most popular apps.

Report any serious risk of harm

- In my role as the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead, I am available to discuss any help you may need or concerns that you may have. You can also talk to the Safeguarding Deputies: Ms Anna Frizoni (Senior School), Mrs Victoria Hay (Senior School) and Mrs Deborah Spencer (Prep)
- If you are worried that a criminal offence has been committed, then you can report your concerns to the Police by contacting Kent Police by dialling 101 or 999 if there is immediate risk or you can report online abuse to CEOP by visiting www.ceop.police.uk and using the "Click CEOP" report button.

For more information access:

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk – Visit the "Parent/Carer" Section and use the "Click CEOP" button to seek advice and report online abuse
- www.childnet.com – Visit the "Parent and Carer" section helpful tools and advice
- www.internetmatters.org – A range of advice and support on issues for parents
- www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety – NSPCC provides information for parents about popular social media sites, apps and games.
- www.saferinternet.org.uk – Parents guides to safety tools on popular devices and signposts report mechanisms for some websites.
- www.kent.police.uk/internetsafety - Guidance from Kent Police

It's important we all remember that the internet is an essential part of young people's lives and provides them with tremendous opportunities. The vast majority use it without coming to any harm so we must be realistic, banning the internet or web sites often will not work and it can make a child feel less able to report a problem or concern, so education around safe use is vital.

Yours faithfully,

Esther Wright
Head of Student Support and Designated Safeguarding Lead

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