

25 March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are always looking at ways to work in order to help 'safeguard' our pupils at City School and help educate them on the dangers that they may face in the wider world.

Pupils are taught about Internet Safety throughout their time in school. We are all aware that the 'digital world' that we live in today can be a positive place with increased communication links and support for people; however you will also be aware of the many 'hidden dangers' it can create for adults and children alike.

We would like to ask you, as parents/carers, to continue to talk to your children about both the positive aspects and dangers of the Internet; and more importantly to remind you to be aware of your child's on-line activity – including games they may play, programmes they may watch, chat-rooms they may be in and social media sites they may access.

Although many on-line games are very appealing to children, they all carry age ratings because of their graphic content. Please can we ask that you are aware of any game and content that your child may be accessing for their own safety – including games that may carry an older age rating of 15 or above.

In addition, social media sites such as Tik-Tok and Instagram are also sites that can allow children to be creative and share videos, photos and messages; however, both of the above have age restrictions (13 years old) and some ask for parental consent for under-18's to access accounts.

Another platform which is very popular amongst children is 'YouTube'. Again, this is a great platform for our children to explore and can help them in many ways; however additional safety settings can be included to restrict the content open to children. Unfortunately, it can be very easy for a child to access videos and content which are unsuitable through this site.

We live in a world where new sites and platforms are ever-changing and so we try to work with parents in order to provide a safe environment for your children and keep you up-to-date with any developments that we feel may help to protect our students at City School.

As I have said, this letter is not designed to cause any alarm amongst the school community; however, it is designed to offer guidance and support to parents/carers so that we can work together to protect and ensure the safety of the children.

On a half termly basis we at City plan to send out information to keep parents/carers up to date on the latest social media platforms and potential risks to our young people. We are taking this proactive step to help support parents/carers in safeguarding children whilst online. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Waite'.

Mr Winston Waite
Online Safety & Anti-bullying Coordinator