



## St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

### Safeguarding Newsletter for Parents – Spring 1, 2021



#### Welcome to our new Safeguarding Newsletter

Keeping children safe and well is our number one priority at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Every half term we produce a newsletter based on a safeguarding theme. This newsletter is designed to help school and parents to work together to safeguard children's wellbeing.

This half term's topic is **Online Safety**

With more of us spending more time online than normal, it is important to remind ourselves how to keep our children safe online. It is vitally important to teach internet safety, particularly when children are in KS2. Whenever children are online they are at risk from unsuitable content, accidentally disclosing their personal data, illegal downloads, file sharing, spyware, viruses, inappropriate advances and cyberbullying. In this half terms newsletter we will look at ways in which your child can be even more safe online.



TikTok has been around for a while now and the recommended age

requirement is 13 years old. Although we do not condone the use of Tik Tok for primary school children, we realise that they have access to it. What you might not be aware of is the ability to link your account with your child's with their Family Safety Mode feature.

#### Livestreaming and video apps

It's really important you help your child understand how to livestream and use video apps freely and make sure they're speaking to people they already know. [Net Aware](#), in partnership with O2, has advice on livestreaming, including how to keep children safe on popular online apps such as Zoom, HouseParty and Whatsapp.

#### 5 Internet Safety Rules Everyone Should Follow

There are many things you can do to educate children on e-safety. Here are 5 tips that you can teach them, to keep them safe online:

1. Take passwords **very** seriously– make sure they are not too simple for someone to predict.
2. Invest time, money, and effort in enhancing your awareness.
3. Always use a VPN \* while browsing the web.
4. Don't download anything from a website or content provider that you don't trust.
5. Be careful what you post, its not always that easy to remove.

#### Terminology check

\*VPN stands for "**Virtual Private Network**" and describes the opportunity to establish a protected network connection when using public networks. VPNs encrypt your internet traffic and disguise your online identity. There are many to choose from and download. [PC Mag](#) have some great advice on this.



We would highly recommend you downloading the National Online Safety app. This app gives valuable information about how to keep your child safe online and keeps you up to date with new apps and websites that children might be accessing which could cause problems.

#### 9th February– Internet Safety Day.

This year we will still be promoting Internet Safety Day in School and through current Remote learning. For More information please visit.

<https://www.saferinternetday.org/>



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### Starting a conversation about online safety.

It can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they're doing online or who they might be speaking to. But talking regularly, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed and mean that when they do have worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you. It can help to:

- Reassure them that you're interested in their life, offline and online. Recognise that they'll be using the internet to research homework as well as talking to their friends.
- Ask your child to show you what they enjoy doing online or which apps they're using so you can understand them.
- Be positive but also open about anything you're worried about. You could say, "I think this site's really good" or "I'm a little worried about things I've seen here".
- Ask them if they're worried about anything, and let them know they can come to you.
- Ask them about their online friends and how they know they are who they say they are.
- Listen for reasons why your child wants to use apps or websites you don't think are suitable, so you can talk about these together.
- Ask your child what they think's okay for children of different ages so they feel involved in the decision making.

### Keeping up to date with the latest apps

#### Dubsmash



Dubsmash is a video editing mobile app where you can make 10 second videos (similar to TikTok). A user can post their 'dubsmashes' to their profile and follow others on it. Dubsmash is available as an app from the App Store or Google Play store.

You should be 13+ to access Dubsmash. For more information please visit <https://dubsmash.com/help>

#### Fake News

Making your child aware that what they see or hear about on the internet is not always true (Fake news) is really important, especially when they are heavily influenced on what they see online. Recently, there has been some misinformation about the various Covid vaccinations. We recommend you have a look at this Facebook post from [National Online Safety](#) which discusses fake news.

### Whatsapp

We have had some issues brought into school where children have had disagreements when using Whatsapp. Under 16 year olds should not have an account. If your child does use your account, we kindly ask that you monitor their usage closely.

#### More information

For further advice and helpful tips on Online Safety, please visit

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

### Prayer for Online Safety

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the privileges you have given us and the ability to spread your word through our actions online. Help us to keep ourselves and others safe in our daily lives.

We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

