



24th November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of our whole school online safety focus and to celebrate the many positives of the internet, we want to continue to raise awareness of the issues that children and young people face online today. As we approach Christmas, you may be thinking of technology presents for your child.

We would like to pass on to you some advice from our local police regarding staying safe online:

"We would like to remind you that with a lot of games systems and gadgets, the children can access the World Wide Web without being on a computer. If you have a wireless network set up at home, you can connect Ipads, Iphones, tablets, PS4s, Wii's, Xbox's very easily and while it does have it's benefits - chatting and playing on-line games with a wide circle of friends, it can also have a darker side. We are all worried about strangers contacting our children and with the right guidance and proper supervision of their activities this risk is very much minimized.

There is another risk - Cyber Bullying. Children can be very easily drawn into name calling, falling out with friends and in some cases physical bullying as a result of things that happen on-line. Throughout the Wigan area, the police have dealt with minor arguments over comments said on Facebook, Instagram, instant messaging and even dealt with physical assaults as a result of someone beating another in an on-line game. Incidents like this happen on a regular basis. The problem is, that sat behind a console or computer screen children feel as though they can say what they think without any consequences. Sometimes this is then brought into school and incidents occur that staff are required to deal with. As with the stranger danger risk we need to make sure that our children fully understand what they should and shouldn't be doing whilst on-line, St. Wilfrids do their best to set good guidelines but do you know what your child is doing on-line? All we are asking is that you are aware of what's going on and that children are supervised accordingly."

We would also like to remind you that online safety issues can be reported directly to CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) using their report button, which can be found on most apps and websites. You will also find the CEOP report button at the bottom of the home page of our school website.



Thank you.
Yours sincerely,

Mr S Colothan
Headteacher



Learning Together Trust

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Janet Kneale



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Believe
Care**
at St Wilfrid's we can