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Headteacher: Mrs J Thompson
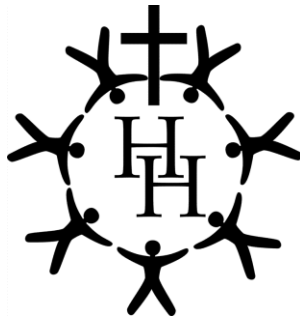
High Street

Batley

West Yorkshire

WF17 6DW

2nd June, 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

The internet and online technologies are an important part of children's lives at home and school, providing great opportunities for learning, communicating, playing and creating. As we know, these technologies create huge opportunities for us all, however, they can sometimes be a bit overwhelming, and present challenges to keeping your family safe online.

Here at Hanging Heaton C of E (VC) J & I School we go to great lengths to keep your child safe whilst using the internet in school. However, it is recognised by all leading agencies that using the internet can never be 100% safe. We have an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) which outlines to you and your children safe working practices and procedures and we are routinely conducting E-safety worship and dedicated E-safety classes. Details of our policies are available on the website or from school.

As part of our school discussions, we have been alarmed to hear of the number of children who suggest that they are involved in online chats with people that they had never met, i.e. via Xbox live and/or Facebook. These children were not purely those in Year 5 or 6 but also involved some of our younger children. We consider how best to keep safe and discussions led to how we know that these 'strangers' may or may not pose a danger to us.

Some of our children have also suggested that they have access to 18 certificate games, e.g. Grand Theft Auto, the series which has gained controversy for its underlined adult nature and underlined violent themes. Whilst we appreciate that some of the conversations may be exaggerated, we believe that it is our responsibility, along with yourselves, to help support and safeguard your children. Indeed we would not want some of our children not currently using these technologies and games to be influenced into doing so. On this note, we would appreciate that you have a discussion with your child as to how to minimise any dangers that they may be exposing themselves to and involve yourself with any online activities in which they may be participating, including ensuring that online activities take place only in the presence of a responsible adult.

Technology has many benefits, but as you hear in the news, it also has many dangers, attached are some useful resources to ensuring your child is safe on the internet at home.

INVESTORS IN PUPILS

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

We are proud holders of the Kirklees Healthy Choice Gold Award.

If you believe that a school led session for parents on this issue would be useful and that you would be keen to attend, please could you indicate on the attached slip and we would be more than happy to arrange one. Please contact either myself or Mrs Brooke-Mawson if you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

J Thompson (Mrs)
Headteacher

_____

Name of child _____   Class_____

I/we would be very interested in attending an after school session at school on E-Safety   ☐

Signed_____ parent/carer

Any comments:

There is comprehensive information about all the online safety issues on the websites below and once parents and carers have the background on the subject they can decide what is right for their family.

• www.parentscentre.gov.uk/ - This Department for Education and Skills website is specifically designed for parents and carers to help them understand the role of the internet in children's education. Childnet have helped to develop the parents content which has a very comprehensive section on internet safety.

• www.childnet-int.org - A non-profit making organisation working directly with children, parents and teachers to ensure that the issues of online child protection and children's safe and positive use of the internet are addressed. Childnet International produce an online CD guide specifically for parents KnowITAll - www.childnetint.org/kia/

• www.thinkuknow.co.uk - The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre has set up its own young person's website which has been designed and written specifically for young people of secondary school age to ensure children stay safe on the Internet.

• http://www.myguide.gov.uk/myguide/MyguideHome.do - My Guide is a government website designed to help adults get started with using computers and the Internet

• http://www.getsafeonline.org/ A beginners guide to using the Internet safely

• www.kidsmart.org.uk/ - Kidsmart is an award winning practical internet safety programme website for schools, young people, parents, and agencies, produced by the children's internet charity Childnet International.

• www.internetsafetyzone.co.uk – A government sponsored web site developed to inform parents and children about how to be safe on the Internet.

• http://www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk/At-Home/Internet-safety/ - Becta Next Generation Learning website provides some good advice for parents about Internet safety

• www.ofcom.org.uk/advice/guides/media/ - Managing your Media – Good Ofcom online safety video and guide for parents/carers

• www.getsafeonline.org - A government sponsored one-stop-shop for reliable, up-to-date information about online safety, to give home users and small businesses the advice they need to use the Internet safely.

• www.bullying.co.uk - One in five young people have experienced bullying by text message or via email. This web site gives advice for children and parents on bullying.

• http://www.chatdanger.com/ - This website is about the potential dangers with interactive services online like chat, IM, online games, email and on mobiles. It provides information, advice, true stories and games. The resource page also contains a number of links to other useful websites.

• www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com - advice and support for those concerned about online child abuse.

• http://parents.vodafone.com/ - Vodafone have developed this website in conjunction with mumsnet. It is very accessible and provides information and guidance to parents with understanding their child's digital world and get more involved. There is even an on-line test to see how much you know! The internet is an exciting and fun place for adults and children to use and explore educationally and socially. The challenge for parents, carers and teachers is to make sure our children are aware and understand how to be safe when using the internet and related technologies.