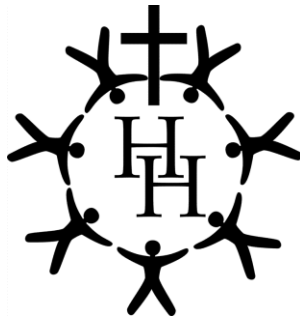


Telephone: 01924 325252
Featurenet: 8305252
Headteacher: Mrs J Thompson



High Street
Batley
West Yorkshire
WF17 6DW

9th January 2017

Internet safety and the use of Social Media

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hanging Heaton C of E (VC) J & I School is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such we feel it is our responsibility to raise this particular issue as a growing concern, due to the increase in inappropriate use of OoVoo, Skype, Instagram, Facebook, Musical.ly and other texting sites.

We understand that it is increasingly difficult to keep up with the ways that our children are using new and ever changing technologies. However most social media sites are created **specifically for those over 13 years old**. When monitoring your son/daughter's internet use, please remind yourself of the very real concerns of social media:

- Many sites use 'targeted' advertising and therefore your child could be exposed to adverts of a sexual or other inappropriate nature, depending on the age they stated when they registered. They may have lied about their age to get an account, making them appear older than they are, increasing this risk
- Young people may accept friend requests from people they don't know in real life which could increase the risk of inappropriate contact or behaviour. **The general rule is, if they aren't friends in real life, they shouldn't be 'friends' online. Some of our children have reported already instances where requests for personal information have been made where the 'friends' are not what they appear to be. Thankfully on these occasions the children did not divulge any further information and put themselves at greater risk.**
- Language, games, groups and content posted or shared on social media is NOT moderated, and therefore can be offensive, illegal or unsuitable for young people.
- Photographs shared by users are NOT moderated and therefore young people could be exposed to inappropriate images or even post their own.
- Underage users might be less likely to keep their identities private and lying about their age can expose them to further risks regarding privacy settings and options.



INVESTORS IN PUPILS



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



**KIRKLEES METROPOLITAN COUNCIL EDUCATION SERVICE
HANGING HEATON CE (VC) JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL**

- Social media sites can be exploited by bullies and for inappropriate contact.
- Social media sites cannot and do not verify its members, therefore, it is important to remember that if your son/daughter can lie about who they are online, so can anyone else.

Primarily, incidents of misuse of social media sites happen at home, after school hours when children have access to web sites that are blocked in school. We feel it important to point out to parents the risks of unregulated use of such sites, so you can make informed decisions.

We strongly advise a device free bedroom policy after bedtime to allow for uninterrupted sleep and rest. Although we cannot govern matters occurring out of school hours, we will take action if a problem comes to our attention that involves the safety or wellbeing of any of our children, including reporting the use of inappropriate texts or images of young people to the police, as this is a legal matter.

We recommend that all parents visit the CEOP Think U Know website for more information on keeping your child safe online www.thinkuknow.co.uk. www.net-aware.org.uk and www.getsafeonline.org. or through the Kirklees Children's Safeguarding Board <http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/internet-safety.html>. Through lessons provided at school, assemblies, guest speakers, and PSHE lessons, we do our best to provide our children with the awareness and knowledge they need in order to recognise and avoid dangerous, destructive, or unlawful behaviour and to respond appropriately. However, it is only through a collaborative effort between parents and teachers that we will succeed in creating responsible and safe cyber citizens. If you would like any further information, or would be interested in attending an online safety event in school, please fill in and return the slip below.

Yours sincerely

J Thompson (Mrs)
Headteacher
Hanging Heaton C of E (VC) J & I School

I would be interested in attending an Online Safety session for parents:

Name : _____ Name of Child: _____



INVESTORS IN PUPILS



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

