



*Sacred Heart Catholic Primary
School and Nursery*

*Windermere Road,
Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 2RF
01702 534546*

office@sacredheart.southend.sch.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I hope this letter finds you all safe and well during these strange and unprecedented times. During these recent times children and families have been even more reliant on the use of the internet for school learning, contacting and socialising with friends, keeping up to date with news, etc. At school we have always been proactive in our curriculum to ensure children have a good understanding of internet safety and we have also shared ideas, tips and held workshops with parents so that they also have the tools to ensure children are safe online.

Over time and especially during this time away from school we have been made aware of a small number of incidents online that as a school we would have taught the children as being inappropriate. The frequency of these incidents seem to be disproportionately higher in Year 6. As Year 6 parents you will understand that this message of staying safe online and using the internet responsibly is vital when moving on to secondary school, as this is where they will gain even more independence and make more choices on their own.

The purpose of this letter is to remind you of the main risks but also to ensure that you speak to your children today and ensure that this message is clear and an open dialogue about the internet and devices at home occurs. This open dialogue is vital as children need to know that they can talk about this topic openly at home whenever they feel the need to do so. The children have had many opportunities at Sacred Heart to learn about and understand internet safety but are still choosing to use it inappropriately in a variety of ways.

Below are four main risk areas for children and online content:

- **Conduct:** children may be at risk because of their own behaviour, for example, by sharing too much information.
- **Content:** age-inappropriate or unreliable content can be available to children (This can be found on social media, websites, apps, games, etc.).
- **Contact:** children can be contacted by bullies (these can be people that they know) or people who groom or seek to abuse them.
- **Commercialism:** young people can be unaware of hidden costs and advertising in apps, games and websites.



*Headteacher: Mrs Janet Mullally
Part of the Assisi Catholic Trust Ltd,
Registered address: Kenilworth Gdns, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS0 0BW
Registered in England. Company No-07696989*



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If someone were to ask you “What do your children do online?” Would you be able to answer it in detail? Would you be able to itemise what apps they use? Who they talk to? etc. If you can not then it is vital and essential that you can and you must ensure that this conversation about internet and device safety happens today.

If you are looking for more detailed advice on internet safety and ensuring children use the internet and devices appropriately please visit [UK Safer Internet Centre - Online Safety Tips, Advice and Resources | Safer Internet Centre](#) . We have also downloaded some documents to support you with these conversations:

[The internet – an inspiring and positive place](#) (Information and advice for parents and carers including a checklist of what to do now)

[Family Agreement.pdf](#) (Use the questions to help guide your conversations, focusing on those most relevant for your family)

[Let's talk about life online.pdf](#) (Advice and conversation starters for supporting your child to stay safe online)

There are also a variety of parent apps available for you to use so that you can monitor their usage on certain apps and sites. We can not recommend any Apps directly but below is a link of possible apps you could use:

[Guide to monitoring apps for parents](#)

We hope all this information will support you in having these important conversations today at home so that your children remain safe online but are also using the internet and devices correctly and appropriately too.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours Sincerely,



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[Signature]
Mr Bragard
Assistant Headteacher & Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Southend-on-Sea



Silver Quality
Mark 2013/14



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