

February 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Online Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Selwood Academy. Online Safety is taught to all pupils and makes them aware of how they can stay safe and behave appropriately online, but we can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you.

Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep themselves safe and behave appropriately online. Children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to illegal, unwanted or unpleasant content, comments or activity online and there are steps you can take at home to minimise this risk.

Discuss together as a family how the internet will be used in your house. Consider what information should be kept private (such as personal information, photos in school uniform etc.) and decide rules for making and meeting online friends. Ensure your children know the risks of accepting friends' requests from strangers online and make sure you know what your child is doing online much like you would offline.

Take an active interest in your child's life online and talk openly with them about the things they do. Talk to your child and ask them to show or even teach you how they use the internet, learn which websites or tools they like to use and why. Learning together with your child can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour online.

Make sure your child knows it's important that they tell an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.

Remember, the internet is an essential part of young people's lives and provides them with tremendous opportunities. The vast majority use it without coming to any harm so it's essential to be realistic: banning the internet or web sites often will not work and it can make a child feel less able to report a problem or concern, so education around safe use is essential.

#### **Websites to visit for more information:**

- [www.selwood.somerset.sch.uk](http://www.selwood.somerset.sch.uk) Our school website page for information on Online Safety
- [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) – Visit the “Parent/Carer” Section and use the “Click CEOP” button to seek advice and report online abuse
- [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com) – Visit the ‘Know It All’ Section for an interactive guide about online safety
- [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org) – Free up-to-date Security advice including using complex passwords and managing hacked accounts

EACH CHILD IS MY CHILD

**Head Teacher: Mrs Jean Hopegood BA(Hons) NPQH**

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Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - Selwood Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and we expect all members of staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment.

- [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org) – Information from the four largest internet service providers (BT, Sky, Talk Talk and Virgin)
- [www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety) - NSPCC's Share Aware campaign provides information for parents about popular social media sites, apps and games.
- [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) – Parents guides to safety tools on popular devices and signposts report mechanisms for some websites.
- <http://el.im/family> - Curated resources from the eLearning and Information Management team at Somerset
- <https://sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/> - Somerset Safeguarding Children Board

If you are worried that your child is at risk of harm or criminal offence has been committed, then you can report your concerns to the Police or Children's Social Care. Please do not notify suspicious profiles of your actions, as this could enable them to delete material which might be required for any Police investigations. You can contact Somerset Police via 101 or 999 if there is immediate risk or CEOP by visiting [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk) and using the "Click CEOP" reporting button. You can also contact Somerset Children's Social Services on 03000 41 11 11.

The School Safeguarding Lead Mrs Steward and myself are available to discuss any help you may need or concerns that you may have.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hopegood', written in a cursive style.

**Mrs J Hopegood**  
**Head teacher**