

Online Safety Conference Follow Up

21st December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We write to you following the hugely successful Online Safety Conference that we delivered on Monday 27th November in partnership with West Mercia Police and the University of Worcester. With the likelihood that your child(ren) will spend an increased amount of time online over the holiday period, we would ask that you consider the content of this letter carefully.

In School we talk to our children and young people regularly about keeping themselves safe online. We explain to them that there are broadly four categories of risk:

Content: Children and young people may see illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content when online.

Contact: Risks young people may face when interacting with others online. This includes child-to-child pressure, child-on-child abuse or adults posing as children with the intention to groom and exploit young people.

Conduct: The way people behave online. This could include online bullying and malicious/threatening communications across social media but can also include the sharing of inappropriate materials such as nude and semi-nude images.

Commerce: Children and young people may be exposed to risks from issues such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing, or financial scams.

During the conference West Mercia Police identified three actions that parents/carers could take to reduce the risks that the online world poses to their child(ren):

- 1) Applications – Use privacy controls to lockdown your child’s account. Prevent applications from openly detailing your child’s location.
- 2) Block Adult Content – Block adult content by asking your internet provider to do this on your behalf and also block the content directly on devices.
- 3) Communicate – talk early and talk often with your child about their online activity, who they are communicating with, what games they like to play etc.

At 56 minutes and 30 seconds in the recording of the conference DC Will Sneddon goes into more detail about how to take some of these actions.

Continued overleaf...

As a follow up to the conference please explore the links below where you will find lots of useful resources regarding online safety. There are also some 'Parent Guides' to various social media platforms that your child(ren) may be using. We are certain that you will find the information available on these webpages useful.

[Parent Guides from ConnectSafely - ConnectSafely](#)

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Should you like to access the MS TEAMS recording of the conference then please email office@ipsleyacademy.co.uk and we will arrange for the link to be forwarded to you.

On return to school in January, should you need any support regarding online safety, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead in your child(ren)'s school.

Finally, we would like to offer a public 'thank-you' to West Mercia Police and the University of Worcester for helping us to stage the conference.

Yours Sincerely,



Scott Crane
Director of Safeguarding
Central Region Schools Trust



Dean Salisbury
Vice Principal
Sutton Park Primary School