



ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Head Teacher  
MRS A. TREADWELL

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I am contacting you regarding Internet safety. We have had issues in school this week whereby children are accessing age inappropriate apps and using them to instant message each other. This has resulted in children using inappropriate language and causing upset and embarrassment to other children and families.

A number of children have computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones at home which they are using to access different apps, such as YouTube, music apps and games. We are also aware that a number of children have used false dates of birth to be able to register and log in to these sites. You do not require a user account to access material on YouTube unless it is age inappropriate; therefore there is no reason for a child to need to register or log in to YouTube.

You may not be aware that a number of these apps also have the facility for chat and instant messaging between users. Please ensure that you check the privacy settings on all of the apps and programs that your child is using. Some apps can reveal personal information such as your child's location or contact details without them knowing. It is essential that you know at all times what your child is accessing online and what they are potentially being exposed to. We would also recommend that internet use is supervised and never allowed when your child is on their own or in their room.

Incidents of this nature are fortunately very rare amongst our children, however it is important that children realise the implications of publishing comments online. Once something is posted online it is very difficult to undo. Incidents which could be interpreted as cyber bullying are taken very seriously by authorities and children can inadvertently end up in a lot of trouble due to comments made online.

Please could I take this opportunity to remind you to talk to your child regularly about staying safe online and the importance of never revealing any personal information about themselves to ANYONE. You can get advice and further information about keeping your children safe online by visiting [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) This is a police-run site for internet safety advice which also has sections of advice and videos for children of different ages.

Thank you for your co-operation with this very serious issue.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A. Treadwell,  
Head Teacher

*Jesus light our way on our faith journey.  
Be our guide, our joy and our hope, as we learn, live, love and pray together*

