



March 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Online safety

I would like to remind all parents/carers of the dangers of allowing your daughters to use the web unsupervised. We work endlessly to ensure students are well informed of the risks involved with allowing strangers as friends, communicating with people they don't know and how dangerous it is to meet someone they have only spoken to online but despite this, incidents arise when the girls are using apps and games.

Please can you discuss the following points with your daughter:

- Do you use Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Viber, KiK, Movie Star Planet, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Musical.ly or Whisper?
- If yes, have you ever spoken to anyone you have never met in person?
- Has anyone randomly contacted you?
- Has anyone been really horrible to you?
- Has anyone been really nice to you?
- Do you post personal information such as name, age, school, photos in school uniform etc.?
- Messages are deeply personal to children but ask if you can you see all their profiles. Often, girls have more than one and they are almost always public so this shouldn't be an issue. If the world can see them, so can you!
- If it is an issue, are they hiding something?
- Are their social media profiles set to friends only and/or private?

Having thoroughly discussed 'think before you post' and 'online reputation' we will be running more assemblies on other aspects of online safety, such as stranger danger and grooming, as it is essential the girls are aware of how easily it is to fake social media profiles and strike up conversations which can lead to grooming.

Should you or your daughter have any questions regarding online safety and the use of technology, please do contact the school. We also run an Online Safety Group which is formed of staff, Governors, students and most importantly, parents but we always need your support. If you are interested in finding out more or just have an e-safety question, please email esafety@arkhelenswood.org and we will be in touch with you promptly.

Yours faithfully

Mr E Clarke
Web & Media Manager



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