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Mr D Cooper
Principal

10th February 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week has been Internet safety week in school and to raise awareness I have been delivering assemblies across the school.

The key messages I have been delivering have been:

- Do you really know who you are talking to
- Think before you post a comment or send a picture, and
- Keeping personal information safe.

The assemblies have been tailored to have a slightly different emphasis depending on the age group, but have all had the same themes within. This is such an important message that I thought I would write to you all at the end of the week with the links to the videos I have used and some information leaflets that I have found produced by Leicestershire and Norfolk police for parents (please note some of the support services and telephone numbers are for these counties only).

Year 7 and 8 – This video is entitled jigsaw and is about a girl who talks to a man online who poses as an 11yr old and is actually 30. It also has a message about not giving out personal information. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8auwnJtqE>. In this assembly the message was about privacy and making sure they think about what someone could find out about them from their online profiles.

Year 9 – This video is entitled exposed and it is about a girl who sends inappropriate pictures to her boyfriend that get shared <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uJOXO AQ9Qo> . In this assembly I stressed that young people under the age of 18 can be convicted of a criminal offence if they take, store or send inappropriate pictures of themselves or others. There is currently a storyline in EastEnders running about this also that I referred to.

Year 10 and 11- This video is the one produced to tell the true story of Kayleigh Haywood. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsbYHI-rZOE> In this assembly the emphasis was on people are not always who they say they are. I also told the students about a case in Hertfordshire of a man who posed as a 15 year old girl on line. He chatted with and groomed another 15 year old girl and arranged to meet her. He then posed as the dad of the girl she thought she had been talking to online. He then got her to go to his car and raped her. He has now been convicted and is in prison.

In both assemblies I went through the top 10 ways to stay safe below.

- 1) Don't post any personal information online – like your address, email address or mobile number.
- 2) Think carefully before posting pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture of yourself online most people can see it and may be able to download it; it's not just yours anymore.
- 3) Keep your privacy settings as high as possible
- 4) Never give out your passwords
- 5) Don't befriend people you don't know
- 6) Don't meet up with people you've met online. Speak to your parent or carer about people suggesting you do
- 7) Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are

- 8) Think carefully about what you say before you post something online – there are young people who post comments about other people that could be seen as racist, sexist, intimidating or threatening and are getting in trouble with the police because it is classed as malicious communication and therefore against the law.
- 9) Respect other people's views, even if you don't agree with someone else's views doesn't mean you need to be rude
- 10) If you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried: leave the website, turn off your computer if you want to and tell a trusted adult immediately.

Useful websites for parents

<http://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<http://parentinfo.org/articles/all>

The internet is so easily accessible and I do feel that it is important that all the young people in our school community are taught that dangers do exist, but if they are responsible, it is safe.

If over half term you can have a discussion with your son/daughter as a follow up to these assemblies then please do so. If you would like further information and help with accessing support services in Cambridgeshire then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Ms V Poulter
Vice Principal