



St Benedict's

Catholic College

MDA/CSI

21st September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Online Safety

It is important to ensure that our young people are safe online as they will be using apps and information from the internet on a regular basis as part of their education.

We hope that you will find the information detailed below useful, and should you have any concerns about interactions that your child is engaging in online, please contact a member of our safeguarding team, and we will be happy to advise you.

Our safeguarding team is:

Mrs M Davis – Assistant Principal

Mrs K Ninnis – Pastoral Lead

Miss R Wilson – Pastoral Lead

Miss E Smale – Deputy SENDCo

Miss K Richardson – Head of Mathematics and Computing

Monitoring your child online and advice for parents/carers

Step-by-step instructions for setting up a child's email on a Google account can be found at:

- <https://support.google.com/families/answer/7103338?hl=en>

Advice for parents regarding online risks can be found in a variety of places online, but the following websites are particularly useful:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- 11 - 13 year olds - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/11-13/>
- 14 plus - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/14plus/>

Setting up devices

There are many different settings and devices to be aware of as a parent, and sometimes finding help in terms of monitoring these can be tricky. The 'Internet Matters' website has a range of useful guides to help and support parents in this – please find some of them below:

- Gaming consoles and devices - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>
- Smartphones – <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/>
- Broadband and mobile networks – <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>
- Entertainment and search engines – <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/>

Social Media

Social media is often a minefield in terms of privacy settings and interactions online. Generally, all privacy settings have to be actively set up, rather than being automatically enabled when an account is created, and this changes frequently as platforms such as TikTok update their features. This clearly requires parents to be vigilant about the social media that their children are engaging with and ensuring apps are age appropriate. Please discuss this with your child so they can understand the dangers and the safety measures that you are protecting them with. Help and support with this can be found here:

- <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/>

Gaming

Parental knowledge of games and their online world is often much less than their children. There is a lot of peer pressure on children to be part of certain games online, and the website 'Taming Gaming' can provide some insight and support for parents at home.

- <https://www.taminggaming.com>

Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the safeguarding team should you wish to discuss anything further.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Davis
Assistant Principal – Safeguarding