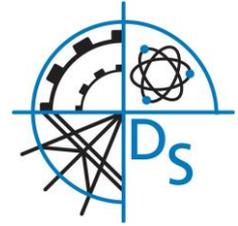


# Denefield School

*Enabling potential, expecting the best*

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Headteacher: Miss L A Dawe BEd (Hons) NPQH



4 February 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

## Safe use of the internet

Tuesday 9 February is national 'Safer Internet Day 2016' and as part of the drive towards improving the awareness of all of our community, I would like to identify some key areas for your attention.

We all know that the internet can be a wonderful tool for opening up a whole world of experiences to our children, and that there are many educational benefits to be gained from using the internet. However, the internet is also a place where anyone can upload information, images, and attempt to contact our children. As unpleasant as the fact may be, increasingly, the greatest danger to our young people's safety is what they might see, and who they might communicate with, on the internet.

As a school, we are committed to protecting your son/daughter on our school site, and to this end we have invested in appropriate filters and staff training to minimise the risks of children becoming exposed to inappropriate virtual material.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ensure that you, as a parent or carer, are aware of the steps that you will need to take to ensure that your son/daughter is safe online at home and when using mobile devices.

In order for you to protect your child against the risks of bullying, CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation), and exposure to extremist ideas, it is important that you take action to ensure that all of your son/daughter's internet usage is monitored. It is essential that you have suitable internet protections **on computers and mobile phones**.

Research shows that where young people become victims of exposure to extremist ideas, grooming for inappropriate sexual relationships with adults, and bullying, the perpetrators of these offences are most likely to use the internet and social media to engage with them. In most cases, parents and carers are unaware of their children's actions until informed by an outside agency. This includes your child's use of social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat. It is often the most innocent looking websites that put your child most at risk, as those sites frequented by young people are the target areas of individuals who are looking for inappropriate interactions.

If you have any concerns about how to manage your son/daughter's internet usage, please see our website for more details under 'Information for parents/carers' and 'Keeping children safe online'.

As a school, we may ask your son/daughter to complete extended learning tasks online. Teachers at Denefield will sometimes set internet based research and guide students to recommended websites (*please see attached list*). However, **all internet usage outside of school should be monitored by parents/carers and appropriate internet protection should always be in place to protect children and young people when using a computer or mobile phone with internet capability**.

I cannot stress enough the importance of checking your son/daughter's internet usage and interactions with others online in order to ensure his/her safety. I reinforce the message that it is essential that all parents/carers have appropriate internet protections in place in order to safeguard children on all computer or internet-enabled mobile devices.

If you would like any further information, please follow the link to: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) or [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk).

Yours sincerely

Mr L Simpson  
Assistant Head