



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

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GBO/MIB

January 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

E - Safety

Following a recent incident where some of our pupils have been subject to **anonymous cyber-bullying whilst on a social networking site**, I am writing to ask you for your co-operation in keeping your son/daughter safe online. The internet has become integral to children's lives and is a fantastic resource which can stimulate learning - however it can also pose risks. Recently, some of our pupils have been receiving anonymous messages during evenings and weekends.

As you know, we take any form of bullying very seriously, whether or not it takes place in school time. So, although these messages have not been received during school hours, due to the seriousness of this, we have taken the precaution of contacting the police for advice, as well as safeguarding teams. We have invited the police to come into school and give advice to pupils in order to raise awareness of their rights as well as how to protect themselves.

Our Advice to Parents/Carers

Know what your children are doing online.

Speak to your child and help them to understand that they should never give out personal details to 'friends' no matter how long they have been chatting. No matter how well they think they know them, people who your child meets online are strangers.

Visit social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook and check out your child's profile to ensure privacy settings are high. Ensure that your child has chosen the highest level of privacy setting so that only known 'friends' are accepted into the chat room. Ask them to regularly check this in case privacy settings have been lowered by the provider.

Check that inappropriate conversations are not taking place and that unacceptable photographs are not being posted. You should monitor your child's instant messaging conversations to make sure that they aren't being pursued by an online predator.

Continued overleaf



Encourage your child to let you know if they receive any upsetting or odd messages whilst chatting online. If your child has an online incident while chatting, you should report the problem and block the user.

You can visit the academy's website www.venerablebede.co.uk or www.thinkuknow.co.uk for further information and advice on this subject and I also enclose a useful leaflet entitled 'a parent's guide to staying safe'.

We are committed to keeping our young people safe from all types of bullying and I know that I can rely on your support.

Best Wishes

G. Booth

**Mrs G Booth
Headteacher**

