



Ashford Church of England Primary School

2 October 2020

Dear Parents / Carers in Year 6,

It has been brought to our attention that some of our children, out of school hours, may have seen inappropriate and offensive material online. This has caused some distress to the children and families concerned and it is also possible that links to this material may have been shared between children on social media platforms.

Can I ask you to please be vigilant with your child's access to the Internet and talk to them about what to do if they find content which is inappropriate? Please also check parental controls on devices to ensure that they are set to a level you and your children feel comfortable and safe with. Beyond the systems available on mobile phones and devices' operating systems, there are a number of 'content blocker' apps that can be purchased that will prevent access to offensive material.

Accessing offensive material at this age is incredibly detrimental to children's mental health and it is very important to ensure that children do not feel any sense of blame for what they may have been exposed to and/or what they may have shared with others. It is vital that we create an environment where children know what is inappropriate and feel safe enough to tell someone about it when they see it.

Further information about how you can help your children stay safe and happy online is available in the Parent section of our school website. In school, we shall continue to discuss safe and responsible use of the Internet and social networking and I would ask that you support us by talking to your children about their own use of social media and the Internet.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Austin
Co-Head of School



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