



Date: 13 December 2017

Ref: ALA/ebl

Dear Parent/Carer

We have received a number of reports relating to a video of child abuse circulating on a variety of popular social media sites which has been sent to young people in Kent and beyond:

Online safety is an important part of keeping children safe at The North School. Online Safety is taught to all pupils within Computing and Values and our curriculum empowers children to understand and be aware how they can to stay safe and behave appropriately online but we can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you.

Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep themselves safe and behave appropriately online. It's important that we are all vigilant when children are using the internet and act to ensure they are protected from people who may pose a risk to them. Children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to illegal, unwanted or unpleasant content, comments or activity online and there are steps you can take at home to minimise this risk.

Websites to visit for more information:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk – Visit the “Parent/Carer” Section and use the “Click CEOP” button to seek advice and report online abuse

www.childnet.com – Visit the ‘Know It All’ Section for an interactive guide about online safety

www.getsafeonline.org – Free up-to-date Security advice including using complex passwords and managing hacked accounts

www.internetmatters.org – Information from the four largest internet service providers (BT, Sky, Talk Talk and Virgin)

www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety - NSPCC's Share Aware campaign provides information for parents about popular social media sites, apps and games.

www.saferinternet.org.uk – Parents guides to safety tools on popular devices and signposts report mechanisms for some websites.

www.kent.police.uk/internetsafety - Guidance from Kent Police

If you are worried that your child is at risk of harm or criminal offence has been committed then you can report your concerns to the Police or Children's Social Care. Please do not notify suspicious profiles of your actions, as this could enable them to delete material which might be required for any Police investigations. You can contact Kent Police via 101 or 999 if there is immediate risk or report online abuse to CEOP by visiting www.ceop.police.uk and using the “Click CEOP” reporting button.

You can also contact Kent Children's Social Services on 03000 41 11 11, or email social.services@kent.gov.uk.

The School Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Clipstone and I are available to discuss any help you may need or concerns that you may have.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs A Lawrence'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

MRS A LAWRENCE
Head of School