



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

3rd October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you had a great summer. For those of you who had a child/children recently join the Academy this is the e-safety newsletter which I send out on a modular basis. E-safety covers a range of online issues such as social media, gaming and cyberbullying. I hope you find these newsletters useful in helping ensure your child uses the internet safely.

Firstly, I am seeking two to three parents/carers to join our Online Safety Group. This currently has representation from staff, students, senior leadership and an academy governor. As a group we communicate by email making each other aware of online safety issues as we learn of them and discuss ways to best deal with them. If you are interested in joining this group please let me know by email on gsleight@prioryacademies.co.uk

At the start of each year I wish to remind parents of the 'SMART' rules for being safe online of which all young people should be aware:

stay safe online

Remember the 5 SMART rules when using the internet and mobile phones.

- S SAFE:** Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name – to people you are chatting with online.
- M MEET:** Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.
- A ACCEPTING:** Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!
- R RELIABLE:** Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are. Make sure you check information before you believe it.
- T TELL:** Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

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It is worth revisiting these rules regularly with your child to ensure they remember them. Year 7 will be looking at SMART rules in their ICT lessons in the coming weeks.

Next, a poster informing children about steps to take if they are being bullied online is now being displayed in all of our classrooms. The poster gives the following advice:

1. Block the person;
2. Report the incident to the hosting website/app;
3. If the problem continues then gather screenshot evidence and hand this to an appropriate adult such as a parent or teacher or an appropriate agency such as Childnet. You should also do this if the incident causes you upset or distress.

Following these steps will help to bring any cyberbullying to a stop and deal with the culprits.

Apple have recently released iOS 12, their new operating system for the iPhone and iPads. Apple have stated that this will have lots of new features that make it easier for parents and carers to ensure their child uses these devices safely. For example parents will now be able to limit their child's screen time on an iPhone and limit access to apps to different times of the day. I will write more about how to use these features in my next newsletter once I have explored them myself.

Finally, all our students this year have been asked to sign the Social Media Priority Pledge. I look forward to seeing our students honour this and use social media positively. This can be seen on page 12 of the daybook.

Yours faithfully,



Mr G Sleight
E-Safety Lead and Assistant Headteacher