



Thornleigh Salesian College

Headteacher
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11th February 2020

Ref: AOC/DS

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Thornleigh Salesian College, we take very seriously our responsibility to ensure the social, emotional and psychological wellbeing of our students. In today's digital world, it is vitally important that we are mindful of the influence of technology over young people's lives. As a School, we are committed to educating young people about online safety and providing them with the knowledge and tools to enjoy this technology in a safe manner.

Technology offers wonderful opportunities for young people. However, when used incorrectly it can have serious consequences and the effects of inappropriate online behaviour and exploitation is of great concern for parents, teachers and students.

Social Media is not about technology, it is about relationships. Some students crave a sense of belonging through these forums, however, they also place themselves at risk from bullying, exploitation and leaving a digital footprint of their own behaviour that will follow them for the rest of their lives.

Tuesday 11th February 2020 marks International Safer Internet Day. This is a global event to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for young people. In support of this important message, this week, the School is focusing on delivering information and advice to all students through assemblies, tutorials and class discussion. As a School, we will be specifically focusing on online Safety, grooming, exploitation and where to access help and support.

As a parent/carers, you can have a vital part to play in helping your child stay safe online and we encourage you to have conversations with your children about online safety and their rights and responsibilities.

For more support with helping your child stay safe online and to initiate these conversations, we would encourage you to visit the following websites:

CEOP's website: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Childnet website: <https://www.childnet.com/>

We are also encouraging all parents to undertake an audit of your children's devices over half-term, ensuring you are fully aware of apps, gaming, social media and websites your children are accessing. We would further encourage you to check privacy settings on all devices and monitor content.

To support this, the School is offering a drop-in service week commencing 24th February, where parents and students can bring along their devices and we can assist in checking privacy settings. More information about this will be on our website and school Gateway.

If at any stage you believe that your child is at direct risk, you should report this to the police, or report to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) by visiting thinkuknow.co.uk and clicking on the ClickCEOP button.



We will continue to work in collaboration with you to ensure all our children are safe and empowered online.

Please do not hesitate to contact the School if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs A O'Callaghan'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs A O'Callaghan
Headteacher