



Joseph Leckie Academy

March 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Raising Awareness of E-safety issues and risks

Parents and carers play a very important role in developing safe and responsible use of the internet and social websites such as Facebook. Joseph Leckie Academy recognises the importance of working with parents, carers and external agencies so that we can help to reinforce the E-safety message to encourage positive behaviour wherever and whenever your son/daughter goes online. Technology continues to change the way we communicate, live and work. To help us to use technology to its full potential we must understand the positive and negative aspects of its use.

What is E-safety?

E-safety is not just about the technology, it's about our behaviour and the behaviour of other people using the technology. E-safety is about developing safe and responsible behaviour rather than simply blocking or banning its use.

Why is E-safety important?

Children start using computers from a very early age and are increasingly using the internet more and more whether it is at home, in school, on their mobile phones or on a gaming console. Therefore, internet safety and knowing how to help protect children and young people whilst they are online is essential. We all want to keep your child safe in the real world and in the virtual world. Children and young people have access to a broad range of technology which provides numerous ways to communicate with people and increasing their risks of being exploited by sexual predators.

Sexual exploitation has been identified as an issue throughout the UK, in both rural and urban areas. Not only does it rob children of their childhood, it can have a serious long term impact on every aspect of their lives. It is very difficult to say how many children and young people are being sexually exploited in the UK, because it is largely a hidden problem that is difficult to identify. In 2004 it was estimated that up to 5,000 young people were being sexually exploited through prostitution at any one time in the UK. Barnardo's estimated that there were 1,000 young people at risk of sexual exploitation in London alone.

As you may know there are growing concerns about increasing cases of Child Sexual Exploitation and with the National CSE Awareness Day 18th March, Joseph Leckie Academy have invited Street Teams to deliver CSE awareness raising sessions.

Street Teams works with young people in Walsall who are at risk of, or victim to, sexual exploitation. Street Teams have worked in Walsall for over 15 years and have a respected relationship with schools, parents and professionals from across the borough. Street Teams' Education Programme aims to prevent innocent children and young people from being manipulated by sexual predators, by raising children's and parents' awareness of the dangers and risks associated with certain behaviours and relationships.

A Street Teams worker will deliver a Child Sexual Exploitation awareness session during your son's/daughter's PDP lesson, sessions will begin after the Easter half term holiday. They will use a consequences video along with other short videos from CEOP and "my new friend" (YouTube) to highlight how grooming affects young people from their view points. They will also discuss the following points:

E-safety, selfies/social media and gaming sites, grooming, age restrictions, privacy settings. There will be discussions around the risks and indicators around both online and offline of Child Sexual Exploitation.

Parents are invited to join us for an informal session on how best to keep your child safe from being exploited by groomers and perpetrators both online and offline.

We will be holding two events for specific year groups at Joseph Leckie Academy:

Monday 14th March: Years 7, 8 and 9 parents/carers from 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Thursday 17th March: Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 parents/carers 6.00pm – 7.00pm

Would you know the difference between challenging behaviours in your child and the signs of a deeper problem? Find out when you should be worried and learn what parents can do to protect your child(ren) from this abuse.

We encourage all parents to attend this important session. For more information, please contact: Pav Kaur, Street Teams 01922 621208.

Yours sincerely

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