



19th January 2017

Dear Parent/Carers

Online Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Newington CEP School. We can only be successful in keeping all of our children safe online if we work with you to ensure that online safety messages are consistent and that all members of the community behave safely and appropriately online.

We are writing to you to request your support in ensuring our children have responsible online role models when posting and sharing content on social media sites. Whilst we are all entitled to have our own views and opinions, we would like to ask that all members of our school community consider how our comments may be misunderstood or misinterpreted when shared online and the possible impact and consequences on others of our online actions.

It is important that all members of the Newington CEP School community understand that the use of technology (including social networking, mobile phones, games consoles and other websites) to deliberately threaten, upset, harass, intimidate or embarrass someone else could be considered to be cyberbullying or harassment. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as bullying in the real world and is not tolerated at Newington CEP School. We take all instances of cyberbullying or harassment involving any members of our community very seriously as we want members of the community to feel safe and happy both on and offline. Posting threatening, obscene or offensive comments online can also potentially be considered as a criminal offence and can therefore have serious consequences.

If parents/carers have any concerns or complaints regarding the school then we would like to request that they be made using the correct and official channels so we can work together to help resolve any concerns that parents/carers may have. The complaints procedure and anti-bullying policy and other relevant policies are available online via the school website or upon request at the office.

I would like to ask all parents/carers to think carefully about the information and comments which are posted online. As responsible adults it's important that we all consider the potential impact and implications posting such content may have on us and our families as well as other members of the school community. I would also like to remind all parents/carers about the need for us all to work in partnership together to promote responsible internet use and also to highlight how important your role is in setting a good example of positive and responsible online behaviour for your child(ren).

More information for parents/carers about online safety can be found at the following places:

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents
- www.saferinternet.org.uk
- www.childnet.com
- www.nscpsc.org.uk/onlinesafety
- www.internetmatters.org
- www.getsafeonline.org

If parents/carers wish to discuss this matter further or have any other online safety concerns then please contact either Designated Safeguarding Lead - myself or Mrs Walker.

Many thanks in advance for your support in this matter,

Mrs T Godfrey
Head of School