



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

Keeping Our Children Safe Online



We are writing to share some important information regarding online safety, particularly considering the popular new Netflix show *Adolescence*. Following its release, we have been made aware of emoji and text slang that children may be using in social media messaging. As always, we want to ensure that you have the information you need to help keep your children safe online.

To support you in understanding the language and symbols your child may encounter, we are sharing a slang dictionary, which provides an overview of common abbreviations and emojis used in online communication. You can access it via this link:

[Slang Dictionary](#)

You will also find attached to this letter an image that shows some of the emoji slang that children are using. Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and you should always discuss any unusual conversations with your child.

A Reminder About Online Safety and Age Limits

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the age restrictions for some popular social media platforms:

Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok - 13+ and WhatsApp - 16+

While children may feel pressure to use these apps, they are not designed for younger users and can expose them to risks such as inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and online strangers. We encourage all families to have open conversations about safe and responsible internet use.

For guidance on discussing online safety with your child, we recommend the following resources:

- National Online Safety: www.nationalonlinesafety.com
- ThinkUKnow (CEOP): www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- NSPCC Online Safety Advice: www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety

If you have any concerns about your child's online activity, please do not hesitate to speak with their class teacher. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Concannon, and Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Vale, are also available to offer further advice and support.

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our children safe.

Best wishes,

Mrs Concannon and Mrs Vale



SUPPORTING
CONNECTING
INFLUENCING

