



Curwen Primary School

Together Everyone Achieves More

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Dear parents / carers,

20th January 2021

There have been some very serious incidents recently that have been brought to our attention with regards to pupils at Curwen and internet safety. These incidents have included the sharing of sexually explicit images and videos, rude gestures, risqué behaviour on TikTok accounts, children videoing themselves in their bedrooms, cyber bullying and not having privacy settings on social media accounts.

As we are being made aware of more and more of these incidents whilst pupils are at home in lock down, we are urging parents to talk to their children about the importance of staying safe online and reporting anything they uncomfortable with.

We suggest that you discuss the importance of being safe and highly recommend setting some rules around the use of devices and social media within your households that will help keep your child safe. Simple things such as:

- Only being allowed to use a device (including a mobile phone) in shared rooms within your home (e.g. kitchen, lounge) with the doors open
- Not taking their phone / device to bed with them, but leaving them in a shared area until morning
- Identifying a person at home who they can talk to if they receive or see something upsetting when using their devices
- Showing an adult any videos they would like to upload to social media accounts before they upload them
- Reminding children that online behaviour must be as 'real life' behaviour. This means that if they would not ordinarily say, share or show something to someone in 'real life' that they probably shouldn't be doing so online either
- Ensuring children have privacy settings on their accounts so that only their friends can access them

As you will be aware, many of these apps and social media sites have age restrictions attached. While we understand that many parents and carers are happy for their children to use these sites regardless of restrictions, it is your job to help your child to remain safe online. They are still young, and even though they are probably more tech-savvy than most adults, they are still learning what is appropriate and not appropriate to share with the world on social media. Please teach them how to do this safely.





At Curwen, online safety is an integral part of our curriculum. However, this is not something we can address without your support. We have resources and advice available on our website, and we are happy to support wherever we can so please do contact us if you have any concerns.

If you feel your child has been involved with or exposed to any sexually explicit material, please do not hesitate to contact the police as peer on peer abuse is very serious.

For more information, please visit our website:

<https://www.curwen.newham.sch.uk/page/?title=Online+Safety&pid=337>

Thank you for your continued support,

From the senior leaders at Curwen and Mrs Mansfield (Head of School)

