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Thursday 7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we are entering another period of online learning I would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of Online Safety.

Over the past year various pieces of information have been sent out to Parents/Carers and pupils regarding Online Safety. On the Farlingaye website (www.farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk/Online-Safety-Information/) you can access the following guidance:

- Online Safety Advice for using Computers, Phones and Apps – sent out to all students.
- National Online Safety - Conversation starters for parents and carers.
- National Online Safety – What parents need to know about online grooming.

As a school, we will endeavour to ensure all parents and carers are kept up to date with apps or websites that we have concerns about. The main websites and apps I would like to bring to your attention at the moment are:

Omegle – www.omegle.com. On this website young people can speak to strangers via an online video call, there are no age restrictions required to set up an account.

Cunch Line Chronicles (available on the App Store and Google Play) – This is a relatively new app released in 2020 which glorifies and normalises County Lines and gang culture. The game is about running a County Lines (Cunch) operation. It also appears to have an in-chat facility which would enable grooming / recruitment. Police are aware of this app and are looking in to what action can be taken to protect young and vulnerable people who are at risk of being exploited.

TikTok - The age recommendation is 13 and above. However, you don't have to prove your age when creating an account, so younger children can still use it easily. When monitoring or supervising a young person's online activity you should look out

for profiles which talk about 'trading' or swapping pictures/videos or hashtags, such as #tradefortrade, which clearly suggest the user is looking to trade illicit content. Users cannot exchange images and videos via TikTok, but once they've made contact with others, they share details and move on to another platform to trade images and videos, such as Snapchat.

If you would like further information on online safety or how to report an online safety issue, then please contact the Safeguarding Team or visit the following websites:

- National Online Safety App. www.info.nationalonlinesafety.com/mobile-app - New App for parents/carers to support you in managing Online Safety.
- www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people/resources-11-19s
- www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/
- www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre
- www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/cybercrime/2-personal-online-safety

If there is a particular aspect of online safety you have concerns about or would like more information on then please contact me via email on:

chankers@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk

Kind Regards,



Miss Claire Hankers
Safeguarding Manager / Online Safety Lead