Search safely and keep parents informed

Always protect yourself

Feel comfortable with your contacts

Everyone must respect each other

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Live, Love and Learn with Jesus

2024 - 2025

SAFEGUARDING AND SAFE INTERNET USE

at St Augustine's

Dear Parent/Carer

Children today have the most wonderful opportunities to learn in exciting, interactive ways. Contact with others is much easier now that we have so many mobile devices. However, we must all be vigilant in ensuring that our children can use modern media safely, confidently and securely.

Parental tools provided on reliable websites are there to help but they don't provide a fail-safe solution to keeping children safe online. Content filters are useful for blocking certain types of material but some of the risks facing children online are as a result of their own or other people's behaviour, such as cyber bullying or over-sharing information. The best outcomes for children come from parental engagement and support.

In order to embed lessons on safety in school, mums, dads and other carers need to talk to their children and make sure they know how to stay safe online. If their children are older, it's important for parents to discuss with young people how to act responsibly online and be respectful to others.

Remember - parental tools can be a very helpful resource but they are not a substitute for knowing what your children are doing online and for being there for them when they need you.

SOME USEFUL SOURCES OF SUPPORT
- **BBC Own It** – a place to help you boss your life online
- **Childnet International** – for primary children
- **ThinkUKnow** – learning resource for children
- https://onlinesafety.educationcity.com/

The following sites also provide useful information to help you keep your children safe when interacting with others via the internet:

- **CEOP YouTube Channel**
- **Common Sense Media Games Reviews**.
- **Internet Matters**
- **Internet Watch Foundation**
- **UK Safer Internet Centre: Parental Controls**
- **Vodafone Digital Parenting Magazine**
- **https://saferinternet.org.uk/**
- **https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/**

In school, we regularly discuss the importance of respect and safety with regard to all kinds of interactions with others. This is done in assemblies, Religious Education lessons, PSHE focus times, IT lessons, Anti-Bullying Week, Safer Internet Day, theatre presentations and other occasions when appropriate. Re-visiting such themes is vital in our efforts to embed relevant values and actions in order to prepare children for the adult world.

We value highly your support in ensuring that the children are supported at home in learning to use technical media in sensible ways which show respect for themselves and for others. We look forward to continuing our partnership with parents and carers in order to equip young people with the necessary skills for future success in life.

If you have any questions about child safety, please contact us at your earliest convenience so that we can assist you.