



11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Keeping Children Safe Online**

As part of our PSHE curriculum and in recognition of Safer Internet Day, we are focusing on helping children understand how to stay safe online. In today's digital world, children are increasingly exposed to online risks, including inappropriate content, online gaming, and social media influences. We want to work together with you to ensure that our pupils develop healthy online habits and make safe choices. I shared an age appropriate assembly with Year 2 to 6 today covering many of these themes.

#### **Social Media and Age Restrictions**

Many popular social media platforms, such as "TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook", require users to be at least 13 years old. However, we are aware that younger children often access these platforms, which can expose them to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and online strangers. We encourage you to monitor your child's use of social media and have open conversations about staying safe online.

#### **Online Gaming and Video Content**

Games such as "Call of Duty, Grand Theft Auto, and Fortnite" are rated PEGI 18 or PEGI 16 due to violent content and strong language. While many children talk about playing these games, it is important to be aware of the potential risks, including exposure to harmful content and interactions with strangers.

Similarly, platforms like "YouTube and TikTok" contain a vast amount of content that may not be suitable for children. Even with parental controls, children can still come across inappropriate material. We strongly recommend using "YouTube Kids" and ensuring that children are supervised while watching online videos.

#### **Film & TV Ratings**

Recently, we have noticed some children discussing "Squid Game, Deadpool, and Wolverine", all of which are rated 15 or 18 due to their violent and graphic content. These shows and films are not suitable for primary-age children and can cause distress. Please check age ratings before allowing children to watch films, TV shows, or play games.

## **Working Together for Online Safety**

Keeping children safe online is a shared responsibility between school and home. We encourage you to:

- Set parental controls on devices and gaming consoles.
- Regularly discuss online safety with your child.
- Encourage healthy screen time habits and offline activities.
- Be aware of what your child is watching, playing, or engaging with online.

We will continue to educate children about online safety at school, but your support at home is crucial. If you need advice on setting up parental controls or discussing online safety with your child, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for working with us to keep our children safe.

Kind regards,

Mrs Catherine Bull  
Headteacher  
Parsons Down Partnership of Schools

