



St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School

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Dear Parents/Carers

At St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School we take the safety and security of all our pupils seriously. We are writing to you today about children's safety when using the internet at home or on their own mobile device following requests from parents for help and advice about the content that children are accessing.

With ownership of smartphones and other internet enabled devices now more widespread amongst our students, there is an ever greater need to manage the content that they can access so they are not, either deliberately or inadvertently, exposed to material you would not want them to see. The nature of mobile devices means that as parents it is not always physically possible to be monitoring your child's use of the internet to ensure that they are accessing the appropriate content you would want them to see. Thankfully there are tools available which can help reduce the risk of inappropriate content being seen by your child.

All internet service providers (ISPs) are now legally obliged to provide filtering and parental controls as part of their service to you. We would suggest that you get in contact with your ISP and ensure that these filters are switched on and are robust should your child try to avoid them. More information about these filters can be found here:

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers/parental-controls>.

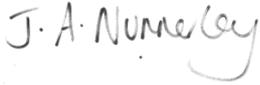
There are other devices in your home that probably connect to the internet such as games consoles which come with their own parental filters such as restricting time spent on them or the age rating of games that are played. There is lots of excellent advice on how to implement these filters and settings here: <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers/parents-guide-to-technology>.

Of course, a mobile phone which is 3G or 4G enabled does not need Wi-Fi to be able to access the internet. Just like the ISP providers, mobile phone networks also provide filtering and restrictions that parents can set up or enable. More information about this can be found from your mobile phone network directly.

One of the most important and beneficial things a parent can do to help their child stay safe when using the internet on any device is talk to them about the potential dangers of accessing inappropriate content. One of the main reasons pupils tell us that they don't tell their parent when something goes wrong is because they fear their mobile phone or other device will be taken away from them. There is advice on how to have these conversations and what to say, which can be found here: <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation>

Should you wish to ask a specific question or you would like further help and advice, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of J. A. Nunnerley in black ink.

Mrs J Nunnerley
Achievement Coordinator – Year 7

Handwritten signature of Mr S Spurrell in black ink.

Mr S Spurrell
E-Learning Mentor