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Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Internet Safety at home.**

It has come to the schools attention that Students are interacting with each other through online gaming sites using consoles like the PS4 and Xbox. Some of the interactions that students are having are negative and this is being carried through into school and leading to arguments and disputes. Please could you ensure that students are playing games that are age appropriate (as some games include violent content) and that they are supervised when using them as the chat function allows them to talk to other gamers across the world putting them in a very vulnerable position. Even innocent sites like 'minecraft' have a chat function enabled.

Students have also mentioned uploading photos and videos to public sites like 'youtube'. **ANYONE** can access this content once uploaded. Please find below some helpful tips to ensure that your child stays safe when online.

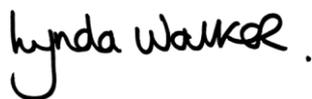
The best way to help your child to be a safe when using the internet is to talk to them and make sure they understand these simple rules.

- **NICKNAME:** Never give out personal details to online 'friends'. Use a nickname when logging on and don't share full name, email address, mobile number, school name and any photos.
- **FAMILY ROOM:** Talk to your child about what they are doing online and who they are talking to. Get them to show you how to use things you are not familiar with. Keeping the computer in a family room means that you can share your child's online experience, they are less likely to act inappropriately (i.e. via webcam) and their online 'friends' will see they are in a family room.
- **UPSET:** If your child receives a message that upsets them, remind them not to reply, they should save the message and show you or another trusted adult.
- **STRANGERS:** Don't open files sent from people you don't know. They could contain a virus, or worse – an inappropriate image or film. An online 'friend' is anyone you have not met in real life; no matter how long you have been friends with them.
- **LIES:** Help your child to understand that some people lie online and that it's better to keep online 'mates' online. They should never meet up with any online 'friends' without an adult they trust. Spam and junk emails and texts are not true, don't reply or send them to anyone else, just delete them.

- **BLOCK:** Make sure they know how to block someone online and report them if they feel uncomfortable.
- **FACEBOOK:** Did you know that it is against site regulations for a child under the age of 13 to have a Facebook account? Also, any posts or photos of your child on Facebook can be accessed by anyone using the site unless you have restricted your privacy settings. Strangers can send friend requests and many of our students may click yes to add them without understanding the danger. Once added these people could have access to a lot of personal information.
- **BLAME** Make sure your child feels able to talk to you, let them know that it's never too late to tell someone if something makes them feel uncomfortable. Don't blame your child, let them know you trust them.
- **London Grid For Learning (LGfL)** The online learning resources provided through Oak Lodge School are monitored and have a range of security measures implemented. Although the school and LGfL take every reasonable care to ensure that inappropriate material and unauthorised access can't take place, they cannot guarantee this and are therefore not ultimately responsible so please ensure you monitor your child's use carefully. If you would like the LGfL login for your child to use at home please feel free to contact the school.

A useful website for more information or to report any concerns is [www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk). If you have any concerns or would like to discuss this further please feel free to contact the school.

Yours faithfully



Lynda Walker  
Headteacher  
Oak Lodge School