

OCKER HILL ACADEMY

Gospel Oak Road, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 0DS • Tel: 0121 556 0445 • Fax: 0121 556 7371
www.ockerhillacademy.co.uk

Ocker Hill Academy



Aim High • Aim Higher

My Ref: MG/SB

Your Ref:

19th June 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

You will have seen in the news in recent days the alarming number of cases that the Police are dealing with that relate to the online safety of children in the UK.

We have been made aware by West Midlands Police and by Parents that the dangers currently facing our children not only threaten their safety and innocence through exposure to grooming, encouragement to produce and distribute inappropriate images of themselves and of their peers and which expose them to inappropriate and often graphic sexual and violent content through perceived safe social media and gaming platforms but also, that Primary aged children are being targeted and guided to materials which radicalise their thinking with regard to others. This acts to sew the seeds of division in these times where, more than ever, we need to stand together irrespective of race, creed, religious belief or sexual orientation.

In these times where our pupils are working from home, we rely on your vigilance to monitor their online life and ask for you to take an even more active role in it than ever before in it.

What are the signs?

- Watch closely for changes in your child's behaviour. Have they become more secretive and guarded about their online activity?
- Has their behaviour towards you or their friends altered noticeably?
- Do they express strong and unusual opinions on matters in the news?
- Are they closed to opinions and viewpoints that are contrary to their own?

This NSPCC resource gives suggestions how to start having a conversation with your child about their online life.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

What can you do to safeguard your child?

- Closely monitor on your child's online activity.
- Look through your child's contacts lists on social media platforms to establish who they are talking to
- Encourage your children to distinguish between real friends (who they have met) and those that they only know through online interaction
- Go through your child's online accounts with them regularly to see who they interact with and how.
- Show an interest in the social media platforms that they interact with. Join in and try to get them to add you to their links, this will allow you to see what is going on more easily.
- Make sure that you set parental controls on their devices and check them after software updates/adding new apps to devices.
- Bring games consoles into areas that can be easily monitored.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

• Principal: Mr A.G. Hollyhead •



Visit the NSPCC website for information and advice:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

What if I think my child is being targeted for radicalisation?

Educate.Against.Hate is a Government website which has a Parent's hub with lots of useful links and advice about how to spot the signs of radicalisation, suggestions of how to discuss issues with your child and where to go to for support should you have any concerns.

<https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/>

What if you discover something?

- If you have concerns, collect your evidence by taking a screen shot of their device (taking photos of messages sent to your child) and their responses.
- Contact CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command) www.ceop.police.uk
- For a concern where you feel there is an **immediate danger** to your child, **call the Police on 999.**
- For a concern where you feel there is **no immediate danger** to your child, **call the Police on 101**
- Report materials promoting terrorism or extremism **immediately** using the government website <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>
- **Follow links for the NSPCC: help@nspcc.org.uk or call 0808 800 5000**
- **Children can call Childline on 0800 1111**
- Contact us at the Academy asking for the Designated Safeguarding Officer on duty.

There are other useful resources that you may wish to look at:

- The NSPCC Website- Help with keeping children safe.
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>
- Parent's handbook for parents and carer's about 'Protecting your child against extremism'
https://educateagainsthate.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/EAH_Parents-Booklet_2018_English_AW_V3.pdf
- Let's Talk about it Advice to parents and carer's about preventing radicalisation.
<https://www.ltai.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Parent-Guardian-Online-Radicalisation-Information-and-Support-V.2.pdf>
- Government website for sharing concerns about online content promoting terrorism/extremism
<https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>

Yours sincerely,

Mr. M Goodwin.
Assistant Principal