

Dear Parent/Carer,

Safer Internet Day 2023

Safer Internet Day 2023 will take place on the 7th of February 2023, with learning based around the theme '**Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online**'.

At Budmouth Academy, we continue to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

At the Academy, students are currently reporting issues to our pastoral team regarding Whatsapp group chats and Snapchat. These group chats can contain bullying issues and encouragement of self harming techniques. Below are a number of tips to help keep your child safe online.

Having conversations without judgement.

Whether by playing games, watching videos, or doing things your child enjoys, spending time together online is a great way to start conversations about the online world and how they're finding being a part of it.

It is important to ask questions and take an interest in what your child enjoys online.

An essential part of having this open dialogue is to not judge, even if their behaviour or life online isn't what you wanted or expected. This ensures that your child feels they can come to you if ever they make a mistake or experience a problem online.

Knowing where you can learn more about their favourite apps and games.

Websites like Common Sense Media or The Family Gaming Database can be invaluable sources of information.

When your child starts talking about a new game or app, why not do some research into the reporting and blocking options available? Then you can help your child if they come to you with an issue.

Getting support if things go wrong.

There are lots of organisations who are there to support you and your family if something has gone wrong. The [Report Harmful Content website](#) can help you with issues such as cyberbullying, impersonation and threats. You can report worrying behaviour towards children to [CEOP](#). Find out more on [Childnet's Get Help page](#).

Reassuring your child that whatever happens online, you are there to support them.

Let your child know that the best way to address any problem they have online, is to tell a trusted adult immediately. For example, this might include someone sending them a friend request; an online message; telling them to visit a specific website, or app; or asking them for their personal information. Reassure them that if anything happens online that they are unsure about, or makes them feel worried or upset, they can come to you for help.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Midworth
Vice-Principal