

## **Staying safe online**

Your child is taught about staying safe online in the ICT lessons and through the Skills for life PSHE programme. We know that children use a number of different apps to play games, make videos and communicate with one another. We work with outside agencies to ensure we keep your child informed and up to date. From time to time we will communicate with you if there is an app causing concern.

The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School guide for parents/ carers in accordance with gov.uk guidelines:

- There are age restrictions for different apps and social media, check that your child is compliant with these.
- Ensure your child has appropriate privacy settings in place and that only approved friends can see what they share publicly and privately.
- Check that your child knows how to report offensive comments or block people who upset them. Talk to them about behaviours and comments that are inappropriate and unacceptable, social media can provide an anonymous platform to voice or share things people wouldn't normally in face-to-face situations.
- Consent should be sought before sharing photos or videos of others. Photos and videos should not reveal identities of themselves or others e.g. school uniform logo showing the school they attend.
- It is important that you keep talking to your child about their use of social media and checking that they are staying safe. Encourage them to consider how they and others behave online and how they could deal with problem situations. Do they know that private messages and deleted messages can still be retrieved? How can they be a good friend online?
- Ensure your child understands the importance of not accepting or befriending people they have never met before.

More details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers-whose-children-are-using-social-media>

## **Cyberbullying:**

The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School does not tolerate any form of bullying. If you have been a victim of cyberbullying you should:

- Keep a record as evidence, these can include 'screenshots'.

- We teach our students to talk to parents/ carers who can help with the situation by removing or reporting any harmful material, and contact the police if there is any criminal activity involvement.
- If this issue becomes a problem in school, report it to a member of staff who can record and follow up as required. The school provides education and advice about online safety through assemblies, Skills for Life PSHE lessons and regular visits from our PCSO's who can provide further advice.

**Parents/ carers please be aware of the sites your children are accessing as sites like these leave users vulnerable to cyber-bullying.**

Helpful links-

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/the-basics/8-tips-for-staying-safe-online>

<https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/>