



Dear Parents,

E-Safety Assemblies 27th February

Priorslee Academy is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the Internet and as such, today we were fortunate to have PCSO Karl Jolly talk to the children about how they can stay safe online. We would be grateful if you could talk with your children this week to reinforce some of the key messages that PCSO Jolly shared:

Key Stage 1

- You would not talk to strangers in real-life so why would you talk to strangers on the internet?
- Do not share personal information with anybody that you do not know
- If something appears online that you do not like, you can turn it off and talk to your parents

Key Stage 2

- If children have any sort of online 'account', check that settings are set to 'private'
- It is dangerous to accept 'friends' or followers who are people that you do not know in real life
- Most social networking apps have minimum age-limits for a reason
- Personal information like favourite colours and favourite bands can still build an 'online picture' of you

We would **strongly advise** that you check any devices (tablets, laptops, phones) that your children use to access the internet and reinforce the other key messages shared with the children today:

- Instagram - an online mobile photo sharing, video sharing and social networking service. **You are required to be at least 13 years old before you can create an account.**
- Facebook - a social networking site. **You are required to be at least 13 years old before you can create an account.**
- Whats App – an instant messaging app for smartphones. **The user agreement requires users to be age 16 or older.**
- Snapchat – a photo-sharing app. **You are required to be at least 13 years old before you can create an account.**

We feel it important to point out to parents the risks of underage use of such sites, so that you can make an informed decision around your child's use of the internet. We would also like to ask you that you monitor your child's use and talk to them about safe/appropriate online behaviour. From the children's responses in assemblies today, it is very apparent that the majority of children have unrestricted access to the internet in their bedrooms through personal tablets, laptops etc. Many children also talked about games that they play either online or on consoles that have minimum age-ratings of 18+ years. Again, we would **strongly recommend** reviewing what children are accessing and when they have access, particularly thinking about when children are on their own.

There is further advice on our website (<http://www.priorsleeprimaryacademy.com/parents-and-carers/e-safety.aspx>) for parents regarding keeping children safe online. Whilst we cannot control what goes on outside of school, if it comes to our attention that inappropriate or unsafe use of these sites is affecting the safety or wellbeing of any of our children, it may be necessary to take action (such as reporting under aged profiles). Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Plim
Assistant Principal

