



**Bluecoat Academy**  
believe in yourself, in others, in God

Dear Parent/Carer,

As an Academy we do our utmost to educate our young people about staying safe online. We regularly deliver Acts of Worship on key safeguarding themes, one of which includes online safety. This week all of our students were shown a video created by Leicestershire police regarding the story of Kayleigh Haywood, aged just 15, who was devastatingly murdered following online grooming in 2015. Although this is hard hitting, we believe that it is vital that young people understand the importance of staying safe online and that parents can spot the signs that may indicate their child is being groomed. We feel that some young people do not understand the dangers of spending time and communicating with others online.

We have also been dealing with issues regarding our own students creating groups and chats online which have led to issues in the Academy. Whilst we do our best to follow these up we would also appreciate your support in helping to challenge the activity and amount of time spent on mobile phones and social media.

I have listed a number of websites below which I would recommend visiting:

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

<http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Our students have the option of attending E Safety drop in sessions every Monday after school where key staff are available should they want to talk about concerns they have with their own online usage and, also, where they can bring their electronic/ mobile devices for us to enable security settings for them. In addition, we will be raising awareness through our Safer Internet Day on the 7<sup>th</sup> February, during which we will share material and advice once again with our students.

We have designated safeguarding officers in the Academy namely Mrs Raynor (Safeguarding Lead), Miss Bamford, Mrs Fuller and Mr Lewis-Gordon. Please do contact us if you have concerns that we should be aware of. The Academy number is detailed below and the safeguarding email is [safeguardingWP@bluecoat.uk.com](mailto:safeguardingWP@bluecoat.uk.com).

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mr Stuart Anderson  
Principal

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