



# PARKSIDE

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Small School ♦ Strong Values ♦ Great Experiences

**Headteacher: Mrs Kam Grewal-Joy**

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RHA/SRU

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Dear Parent/Carer

Our school recognises our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of our pupils. We are writing to you to give you some information about how we meet our safeguarding and child protection responsibilities. We have also included some tips to help you to keep your child safe. If you have any questions about safeguarding, or if you would like to see our child protection policy please check our website or contact the school office. If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of your child or a child you know, you should contact us directly.

We help to keep pupils safe by:

- having an up to date Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- having other safeguarding policies, such as Anti-bullying and Internet Safety
- checking the suitability of all our staff to work with children
- encouraging pupils to tell us if something is wrong
- adhering to health and safety regulations
- training all our staff to recognise and respond to child welfare concerns
- appointing a designated person who has additional training in child protection
- working in partnership with parents and carers
- sharing information with appropriate agencies if we have concerns

We would also ask parents to be aware that although overall percentages are small there is an increasing number of secondary school children who are actually self-harming. Please be alert to this with your own child and if you do have concerns please contact your GP to access the professional help and guidance in order to support your child effectively. If we suspect your child is harming themselves then we will contact you.

Key topics with regard to staff training this year have been to raise awareness of the PREVENT agenda which has the aim of reducing the likelihood of young people being radicalised and promoting any extreme views. In addition the dangers of Child Sexual Exploitation were also explored. If you would be interested in any further information with regard to any of these issues please contact Mrs Hammond or access the websites at the end of this letter.

Mobile phones and computers are a part of everyday life for many children and young people. Used correctly, they are an exciting source of communication, fun and education but used incorrectly, or in the wrong hands they can be threatening and dangerous. At School we teach the pupils about internet and mobile phone safety through ICT lessons and assemblies. As always learning is more effective when these matters are discussed at home too.

We would like you to consider the following:

- Locating the computer in a family room where it will be easier for you to supervise your child's online activity.
- Ensure that your child knows they should never give their full name, address and contact details to people they chat to on the internet.
- Gently explain that some people they talk to on the internet may not be who they say they are and might say or do unpleasant or hurtful things.
- Investigate the 'parental controls' available from internet service providers.
- Consider installing software that can filter out inappropriate material.
- Talk to your child about their internet use. Ask them which sites they enjoy most, and why. Show you are interested, while understanding their need for some privacy.
- Impress on your child that they can talk to you if they are worried about something that has happened during their internet use.
- Make it very clear that your child must never arrange to meet someone they have chatted to online without your permission. Their new 'friend' might well be a local young person of similar age, but they might not.

**You may be alerted to question your child's online activity if they are:**

- spending more and more time on the internet
- being secretive – reluctant to talk about their internet activity, closing the screen page when you are close by
- spending less time with the family, or giving up previous hobbies and interests
- losing interest in their schoolwork, regularly failing to complete homework
- starting to talk about 'new friends' that you have not met and who do not visit your home
- overly possessive of their mobile phone or computer – perhaps overreacting if someone picks it up or asks to borrow it
- showing fear or discomfort when their phone rings, or quickly turning it off without answering

Remember that none of these signs prove that your child is at risk in any way, but if you notice anything that confuses or worries you try talking things over with them. If you are still concerned contact one of the helping agencies listed below or contact us at school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs R Hammond  
Deputy Headteacher

Useful Websites

Internet Watch Foundation: [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre: [www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk) Stop It Now!

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/.../FGM\\_leaflet\\_v4.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/.../FGM_leaflet_v4.pdf)

Key Safeguarding Staff

Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding & Child Protection - Mrs Hammond

Designated Deputy Person for Safeguarding & Child Protection – Mrs Peplow