



GATEWAYS SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

Safeguarding incident – please be vigilant

There have been reports in the media recently about an e-safety incident involving primary and secondary age children from Leeds and their mobile phones. Just to be clear, the incident did not take place in a school or through an 'app' approved by a school, but was reported to a school by concerned parents. The incident is now being investigated by West Yorkshire Police.

This incident has highlighted a number of safeguarding issues raised recently about certain 'apps' including Live.ly, ooVoo, and music.ly, amongst others. These apps are supposed to only access contacts on the user's phone, but it appears that quite quickly unknown individuals are able to join group chats. Therefore, these apps are not safe for children to use as there is a significant risk of inappropriate contact by unknown individuals.

Please be vigilant. Ensure that your child does not have access to such apps and check that all appropriate privacy settings are switched on, so that they are protected when using any internet site. If your child experiences or expresses concerns about online activity, it must be reported to the police using 101 and <https://ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/>. Wherever possible, a screen shot or a mobile phone picture of the concern should be taken for reporting purposes.

School staff have already given a range of information to our students about how to stay safe on line and staff regularly remind students about how important this is. Your support in emphasising this with your child would really help to strengthen the message.

There is some useful information on the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) website about online safety, with some useful tips for parents at <http://www.leedslscb.org.uk/Parents-Carers-Wider-Family/Keeping-children-safe-online>. This is in addition to the advice for parents and students provided on our own school website.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Wood
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Headmistress: Dr T Johnson BSc (Hons), PhD, PGCE

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