

# Netley Abbey Junior School

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Dear Parents,

## Safeguarding Incidents Involving Internet Use

Over the past few days, we have become aware of two serious safeguarding incidents involving the internet.

One incident involved a stranger sending an indecent video and images to a child within the school, using a social media site. We are very pleased that the child came forward as there was no question that they had done anything wrong. This matter has been reported to the police. The second incident involved a child forwarding an explicit image. This is also being reported to the police.

The children in the year group concerned have been spoken to regarding the importance of reporting any such incidents to a trusted adult and the legal implications of sharing any such images or videos with others. This is not just to keep other children safe but also because sharing of this nature is illegal:-

- under the Protection of Children Act 1978, the UK has a strict prohibition on the **taking, making, circulation,** and **possession** with a view to distribution of any indecent photograph of a child and such offences carry a maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment

For more information on the law please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/indecent-images-of-children-guidance-for-young-people/indecent-images-of-children-guidance-for-young-people>

The children receive regular internet safety information and teaching and we regularly communicate safeguarding advice through our newsletter and printed media. Could we please reiterate to you how important it is that you discuss and reinforce these messages and the use of social media with your children, in order to keep them as safe as possible.

**Regularly check your child's phone** and if your child receives illegal material, we would encourage you to please report these incidents to the police in the first instance or use the internet watch foundation ([www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)) to do so. **DO NOT** forward any illegal images to the police as this is also illegal. If you have any general concerns regarding internet safety, please feel free to contact the school as usual. Recent newsletters also contain links to several helpful sites and the 'Digital Parenting' magazine, which was sent home recently, is also very useful.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B Davis  
Computing Specialist

Mrs R Bird  
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead