

21st June 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our commitment to ensuring the safety of our pupils and students, we provide essential information on emerging issues and how to stay safe online. It is important for parents and carers to be aware of Self-Generated Child Sexual Abuse Material.

Self-Generated Child Sexual Abuse Material

'Self-generated' CSAM are images and videos which are taken by children and then shared either:

- willingly, usually with a boyfriend/girlfriend,
- unwillingly, through coercion,
- shared by a third party without their consent.

Some of these images end up being distributed, sometimes sold, on the open and dark web by those with a sexual interest in children.

The apps young people use, such as Snapchat and TikTok are also used by perpetrators to talk to children and groom them into sharing sexual images. Contact is also made through online games. This is a serious safeguarding issue, with wide-reaching consequences that we all need to learn more about.

The Policing Institute for the Eastern Region (PIER) and Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) have written a blog post for parents and carers about how they can better understand their children's online world and its risks.

The blog post can be found via the following link -

Tips for helping children stay safe online:

https://www.iwf.org.uk/news-media/blogs/tips-for-helping-children-stay-safe-online/

Please ensure that your children are also aware of the dangers of CSAM and report concerns to the school's Safeguarding Team.

Yours sincerely

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