St Francis' Catholic Primary School

Station Road, Nailsea BS48 4PD
Tel: 01275 855373 ~ Fax: 01275 794476
Email: stfrancis.pri@n-somerset.gov.uk
Website: www.st-francis.n-somerset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Ms Caroline Hostein

Ofsted
Outstanding
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Ensuring an excellent child-centred education within a Christ centred philosophy

E-Safety Newsletter

Term 3

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the third of our termly newsletters on E-Safety. By offering practical tips and advice throughout this year, we hope to provide you with a better understanding of the kind of activities your children will engage with online and how they can stay safe in the process.

The development of gaming sites, mobile devices and social networking means that online technologies are now accessible 24 hours a day. This provides wonderful opportunities for children both at school and at home. However, ease of access has meant that technology can intrude on spaces that were previously personal; home in particular.

We are all aware of the devastating effects that bullying can have. Cyberbullying (bullying that takes place via technology) is no different and with 24 hour accessibility can be relentless. Technology can increase the audience for bullying and multiply the number of people involved – sites such as Twitter and Facebook provide the opportunity to 'Like' or re-post content. There is also the potential for bullies to attempt to carry out these actions anonymously.

Inside:

What to do if your child is being Cyberbullied

What to do if your Child is being Cyberbullied

Recent surveys indicate that **21% of 8-11 year olds** have been deliberately targeted, threatened or humiliated by an individual or group through the use of mobile phone or the internet. This increases to **28% of 11-16 year olds.**

If you're concerned that your child may be being Cyberbullied, the following guidance may prove useful:

1. Offer reassurance and support.

Your child may be in need of emotional support or feel like they have nowhere to turn. It is rare that Cyberbullying is only taking place online and is often someone your child knows through school or a group they attend. St. Francis (and all other schools!) have policies and procedures in place for dealing with Cyberbullying.

Your child could also visit 'Beat Bullying'. This is an online counselling service with a difference; the counsellors are also children and young people. This site has proved very popular and offers practical advice: www.beatbullying.org

2. Tell your child that if they are being bullied to always keep the evidence.

Whether it's a text message or email, tell your child not to reply to the bully or delete the comments. Text messages can be kept, emails can be printed and screen shots of comments can be saved and printed.

Ask your child if they know the bully or where the messages are coming from. Often it is someone within the school environment and can be dealt with quickly and effectively with assistance from the school.

3. Block the bullies.

If someone is bullying your child on a social networking or chat site, encourage them to block or delete the individual so that they can't be contacted by them anymore. Similarly, encourage your child to be selective about who they accept as 'Friends' and who they give their mobile number/email address to.

If you avoid bullying behaviour at school then you should do your best to avoid it outside of school too.

4. Report any bullying content to the website it's hosted on.

If content has been posted, for example a video or image, which is upsetting your child you should report it to the website, for example, Facebook. Learn how you would report content on sites like Facebook and Youtube; every site is different. Contacting the website is the only way to get the offensive content removed, unless it is illegal. In cases of illegal content for example indecent images or videos of young people under 18, contact your local police or report it to: www.clickceop.police.uk

Is my Child Involved in Cyberbullying?

As hard as it can be to admit, it is also possible that your child is or has been a bully. They could have set up or joined a malicious profile or simple 'liked' a mean comment they have seen about someone online. They could be acting in this way due to peer pressure or in retaliation for something that has happened to them.

When talking to your child about bullying it is important to let them know how you as a family feel about the act. Talk to them about how it makes others feel and the consequences of their actions.

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The online world which the children engage in can often be alien to their parents. By encouraging openness and honesty about online behaviour, we can hopefully ensure that the children continue to receive enriching experiences through technology.

As always, if there is anything we can help with in school or any behaviour that you feel we should know about, please don't hesitate to speak to a member of staff. For further help and guidance on Cyberbullying, please visit:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Safer Internet Day

We will be marking this day in school with various activities and discussion around E-Safety issues. The Safer Internet Day website contains information for parents/carers and is certainly worth a look at. They are even streaming programmes for parents/carers at 15:00 and 19:00!

http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/

Yours sincerely,

S Groves