

15th July 2013

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over this last academic year. I sincerely hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday. The relationship between school and home is of paramount importance when it comes to supporting your child's emotional, social and academic progress. It is with this in mind that I would like to inform you of the increasing popularity of social networking sites that are available to your child.

Social Network Ask.fm

As messages can be left anonymously on this site, this can lead to incidents of cyber bullying. Cyber Bullying is when a person or group of people, use the network to threaten, tease, abuse or humiliate someone else. Comments made on sites like ASK.fm can cause upset, distress and psychological damage to children with significant lasting effects.

Police have been so shocked by some of the comments found on this site that they have involved Interpol in an attempt to close it permanently. Schools in Ealing have become directly aware of the site because some pupils have been able to access it and we are aware that some have received abusive, anonymous messages which are clearly from other students in the school. This has led to pupils feeling intimidated.

As a school we feel it is our duty to alert you to what is potentially a dangerous site for your child to access. Some schools have reported examples of this site actively encouraging students to self-harm.

There has been a real focus in school this year on promoting safety online and encouraging pupils to take the correct precautions with regards to 'E-safety'. Please make your children aware of the dangers associated with these websites and we recommend you block Ask.fm in particular. It is essential to protect pupils from this type of cyber bullying and we need your full support to do this.

We can assure you that we as a school will continue to deal severely with any pupils who are known to be involved in any form of cyber bullying, and because of the scale and frequency of these incidents and the hours we spend investigating issues of this nature, we are now considering involving the police in future incidents of this kind.

By working together, and sending our children the same message, we can continue to ensure their safety.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Walton

Assistant Headteacher,

Pupil Care and Learning Support.



THE
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CATHOLIC
SCHOOL

*A DfE Designated
Technology and
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