

18 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Our Lady's Catholic College is committed to educating young people about online safety and healthy relationships. We know it is crucial to alert them to the risks of online behaviour, exploitative relationships, and ensure they know where to get help if they need it. As a Catholic school it is important that we teach about relationships in the context of the Church's teaching about the human dignity of every person.

Online Safety Week starts on Monday 8th February 2021 it is very important to our school and students. Safer Internet Day is coordinated by the Insafe network and is celebrated every year across Europe, and in other countries worldwide. In the UK, Safer Internet Day is organised by the UK Safer Internet Centre (www.saferinternetday.org.uk), and this year's theme is "**An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world**".

Young people are spending more time in lockdown online than any other time; remote learning, gaming, streaming and using social media. We want to encourage them to be using safe online behaviour and consider what they are seeing and reading online; is reliable. Thanks to Donald Trump we have heard about "Fake News"; but do we really know what it is?

Normally students would have special assemblies, activities and lessons in school but this year we need to do things a little differently.

We will be using our online platforms (Teams, Facebook & website) to celebrate and promote Online Safety Week. We encourage you and all our students to get involved. There will be activities, quizzes, competitions, student assemblies and parent information sessions. All our departments will also have an online safety focus in the normal lessons.

The Computing Department, who are CEOP trained, will be leading online safety week and we will be using films and resources that have been produced by CEOP and UK Safer Internet Centre. CEOP is part of the National Crime Agency, and its role is to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse. **Please note:** films and resources shown/used are age/content appropriate.

Help keep your child safe online

As a parent/carer, you have a vital part to play in helping your child stay safe whilst using the latest technology. We would encourage you to discuss the assemblies and lessons during this time as part of an ongoing conversation about their use of technology and safety. For more help please visit our school website www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk and click on the Online Safety link or you can visit CEOP's website www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents or the UK Safer Internet Centre at www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers, more advice can also be found at <https://parentinfo.org/>

If you are concerned about your child's safety...

If you are worried that your child is engaging in unsafe online behaviour please consider contacting their Progress Leader, Pastoral Support Officer or Mrs Loxam, Assistant Head in charge of Pastoral Care at Our Lady's to share your concerns. If your child is at direct risk of being sexually exploited or groomed online, you should report this to the police, or report to CEOP by visiting thinkuknow.co.uk and clicking on the ClickCEOP button, pictured.



OLCC NEEDS YOU!

Want to know how to keep yourself and your family safe online?

Check out, Like and Follow the OLCC Digital Leaders page on Facebook [@olccdigitalleaders](https://www.facebook.com/olccdigitalleaders)



Information available on our school website www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk

SHARE THE ONLINE SAFETY MESSAGE!



Our Lady's Support on Online Safety

Please keep up to date with advice from Online Safety Week on our website www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk/ and 'Like' the OLCC Digital Leaders Facebook page [@olccdigitalleaders](https://www.facebook.com/olccdigitalleaders).

Yours sincerely,