

20 October 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

As part of teaching your child about internet safety and healthy relationships, we are holding an Enrichment Day on Thursday 27th October. The students will be off normal timetable and will be focusing on **Shine Online**; the school's online safety policy.

As part of the day your child will view and discuss a film called *Exploited*, or other internet safety films, which has been produced by CEOP. CEOP is part of the National Crime Agency, and its role is to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse.

The film aims to help young people learn:

- That in a good relationship, both people want what's best for each other.
- That some people make you think they are your friend, boyfriend or girlfriend, but really they are using you e.g. for money, status or sex.
- That some people make young people feel special (e.g. giving them gifts or paying them compliments) in order to gain control over them.
- That some people use pressure and threats to try to gain control over others.
- How to tell when a situation is unsafe, and set boundaries about what you do and don't want to do.
- How to tell if someone wants a relationship with you for the right or wrong reasons.
- That there are many people who can support you if you feel at risk, including teachers, parents/carers, and organisations like CEOP and Childline.

Please note: films and resources will be shown/used that are age/content appropriate

Help keep your child safe from exploitative relationships

As a parent/carer, you have a vital part to play in helping your child stay safe in relationships. We would encourage you to discuss this film and its key messages with your child to keep them safer in future.

Conversation starters

- Ask your child what they thought of the film and what they thought its main messages were.
- Emphasise that if someone is treated badly in a friendship or relationship, it is NEVER their fault.
- Tell them that they can always talk to you about any worries they have.

For more support with helping your child stay safe in relationships, sex and the internet, visit CEOP's website: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents.

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

If you are worried that your child is in a harmful relationship, please consider contacting their Pastoral Leader, Pastoral Support Officer or Mrs Loxam, Head of Pastoral at Our Lady's to share your concerns.

If your child is at direct risk of being sexually exploited, you should report this to the police, or report to CEOP by visiting thinkuknow.co.uk and clicking on the ClickCEOP button, pictured.



Our Lady's Support on Online Safety

Further Online Safety lessons and assemblies will be held throughout the year by our Computing teachers who are CEOP trained. In the meantime please keep up to date with the latest online safety advice on our website www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk/ and 'Like' the **OLCC Digital Leaders** Facebook page. Miss Bell is our Online Safety Officer and is leading the Enrichment Day. If you have any questions feel free to email her on s.bell@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'H Seddon'.

Helen Seddon – Headteacher