



Western Community Primary School

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Dear Year 6AT Families,

During an online safety session in 6AT yesterday, the children spoke very openly with me about the different ways they use technology at home. As always, every family will have its own views about what feels appropriate for their child, and I completely respect that. However, I would encourage you to take a moment to review the privacy and safety settings on your child's devices. Even small adjustments can make a big difference in helping them stay safe and supported online.

Most children shared that they regularly use a wide range of apps, games and platforms, including Snapchat, TikTok, Twitch, Roblox, Call of Duty, Grand Theft Auto, Fortnite, Minecraft, WhatsApp, Discord, Instagram, Facebook, YouMessenger and Messages. We talked through each one together and explored the potential risks, especially when children are using these platforms without secure settings or adult oversight.

I also spent time discussing what the children can do if they come across something online that confuses them, worries them or makes them feel uncomfortable. We talked about:

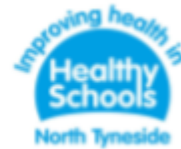
- taking a screenshot or screen recording (only if safe to do so)
- going straight to a trusted adult at home
- blocking unwanted messages or callers
- reporting anything inappropriate or unsafe



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I reassured them that they can always come to us in school if something is bothering them. They never need to deal with these things alone.

I also want to highlight that games such as **Grand Theft Auto** and **Call of Duty** are rated **18** because they contain adult material, including strong violence, abusive themes and misogynistic content. These are not designed for children, and we do consider access to such games a safeguarding concern. For this reason, my strong recommendation is that children do not have access to these or similar age-restricted games.

If you would like any help in checking or adjusting device settings, Mrs Robson is more than happy to support. She is incredibly knowledgeable and will gladly talk you through anything you need - just contact the school office and she will arrange a time to help.

Here are some trusted, up-to-date guidance tools to support you:

- UK Safer Internet Centre – Parents & Carers section: tips and guides for phones, tablets, games consoles and social media. [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- NSPCC – Advice on talking to your child about online safety, managing gaming, apps, livestreaming and more. [NSPCC+1](#)
- Parentkind – Online Safety Toolkit: practical family media plans, screen time agreements, conversation starters. [Parentkind](#)
- Ofcom – Guide: “How Ofcom is helping children to be safer online” (what platforms must do; what you should check). <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-online-safety-rules-will-help-to-protect-children-from-bullying>

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and your support. Keeping children safe online is very much a team effort, and I am incredibly grateful for the thoughtful conversations you continue to have at home.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Dixon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sarah Dixon
Head of School