



# RICHARD de CLARE

## *Community Academy*

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Dear Parent/Carer

### Internet safety and the use of Social Media

Richard de Clare Primary School is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as a school we have become aware that many children are using apps which are age inappropriate and could pose a danger. Some of these apps are:

**Musical.ly, Livel.ly', Instagram, Facebook, Skype, Snapchat, Yellow, YouNow, YouTube, Omegle, Live.me**

All these apps have an element of sharing either chat; live or written, pictures or live streaming. If children are not using **privacy settings** and set them to '**friends only**' it will be possible for complete strangers to chat with your child and view their pictures and videos. **Strangers will be able to contact your child.**

The most important thing you can do as a parent to protect your children from dangers that are associated with the use of apps is to talk with them frequently about their social online lives.

Young people may accept friend requests from people they don't know in real life, which could increase the risk of inappropriate contact or behaviour, as people could lie about who they are. **Adults could pretend to be children to gain contact with your child.** The general rule is, if they aren't friends in real life, they shouldn't be 'friends' online.

Discuss with your children early and often about relationships and what is appropriate. Help them understand that some people might not be who they say they are. Setting technology boundaries (when and where they access the Internet) and monitoring their online behaviour can be a very effective way of protecting your child.



***'Dream big, work hard, believe and achieve'***

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Children love to play video games and watch movies, but there are some risks involved. The two main areas of concern are:

- Children experiencing violent or sexual content beyond their age.
- Children playing online with strangers and either experiencing inappropriate language, images or being groomed. One such game is Roblox.

In conversations with children during assemblies, it appeared that many of them had been shown inappropriate sexual content by strangers. Again discussing safety and privacy settings and the reporting of inappropriate behaviour with your children can help keep them safe.

Through lessons provided at school, assemblies, guest speakers, and PSHE lessons, we do our best to provide our children with the awareness and knowledge they need in order to recognise and avoid dangerous, destructive, or unlawful behaviour and to respond appropriately. However, it is only through a collaborative effort between parents and teachers that we will succeed in creating responsible and safe cyber citizens.

Although we cannot govern matters occurring out of school hours which is parental responsibility, we will take action (such as reporting under age profiles) if a problem comes to our attention that involves the safety or wellbeing of any of our pupils, including reporting the use of inappropriate images of young people to the police, as this is a legal matter. This also refers to inappropriate text messages.

We recommend that all parents visit the CEOP Think U Know website for more information on keeping your child safe online

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk).  
[www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk) and  
[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

Thank you for your support with this matter.



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