



28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

STATION ROAD KNOWLE SOLIHULL B93 0PT  
01564 773 348  
WWW.ARDEN.SOLIHULL.SCH.UK

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## Online Safety Information from West Midlands Police

I hope this letter finds you well. As part of our commitment to safeguarding our pupils, we are sharing important guidance from West Midlands Police regarding online safety. In today's digital age, it is essential that we work together to help our children use the internet safely and responsibly.

### Key Advice for Online Safety:

- 1. Privacy Settings**  
Encourage your child to use privacy settings on all social media platforms to control who can view their profiles and posts. Remind them not to share personal details such as their full name, address, or school online.
- 2. Stranger Danger Online**  
Just as we teach children about stranger danger in the real world, the same principles apply online. Warn your child not to accept friend requests or communicate with people they don't know in person.
- 3. Cyberbullying**  
Talk to your child about the importance of being respectful and kind online, and what they should do if they experience or witness cyberbullying. Encourage open communication so they feel comfortable reporting any concerns to you or a trusted adult.
- 4. Sharing Content**  
Remind your child to think carefully before sharing photos, videos, or messages. Once something is online, it can be difficult to remove and may have long-term consequences.
- 5. Recognising Risks**  
Help your child recognise potential online risks, such as phishing scams or unsafe websites. Encourage them to question suspicious links and to report anything that doesn't seem right.
- 6. Reporting Concerns**  
If your child encounters anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe, remind them to speak to you, their teachers, or report it through platforms like CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) or directly to the police.

### Useful Resources for Parents

To further support you in this area, West Midlands Police recommend the following websites:

- **ThinkUKnow** ([www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)): Practical advice on online safety.



- **Internet Matters** ([www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org)): Guides on setting up parental controls and monitoring online activity.
- **NSPCC Online Safety** ([www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)): Tips for talking to children about their digital lives.

By working together, we can create a safer online environment for all our young people. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the safety and well-being of our pupils.

Yours sincerely,

Arden Academy