



The Ongar Academy

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4th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Internet Safety

The Ongar Academy prides itself on providing a safe learning environment for its students. An emerging national concern is the inappropriate use of the Internet and on the 5th February we will be raising awareness of this in school and within the wider community by supporting Safer Internet Day 2019 (SID). We ask for your support in assisting us with this challenge and we have attached information sheets on how you can support your son/daughter using the internet safely.

Schools nationally have seen an increase in negative student behaviour as a result of messages written using electronic technology, posted to popular social networking websites. Many sites contain instant messaging components that allow students to chat with other students and to post statements that ordinarily would not be said in a face-to-face conversation.

Outside of our schools, there have been instances of adults posing as youths and gaining access to student chat rooms. In some cases, these contacts have led to tragedy. Some unsuspecting students post enough personal information that predators are able to locate students' home or school addresses, thereby becoming easy targets for predators.

Helpful Tips and Resources:

We encourage you to talk with your son or daughter about the potential danger of the Internet. Ask if they have an Instagram, WhatsApp, Facebook, Snapchat and other social media account. If your son/daughter is using such a site with your permission, you may want to review his or her profile to ensure that no personal and identifiable information has been posted.

We also encourage you to establish rules and guidelines to ensure the safety of your son/daughter while on the Internet. The attached documents should support you in this. The Ongar Academy will continue to provide Internet security within the school but it is important that parents/carers also monitor Internet use at home.

Thank you for your support and co-operation in keeping our children safe. If you have questions or would like any more information, or would like to discuss any concerns you have with your son/daughter's online safety, please feel free to contact us using the school website and marking it for the attention (FAO) - Designated Safeguard Lead.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. E. Ruffles
Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr. A. Osborne

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

