St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School

Bonner Road, Bethnal Green, London, E2 9JY
T: 020 8980 3964
email: **school@st-elizabeth.uk**   website: **www.st-elizabeth.uk**

Headteacher : Ms A John	Deputy Head : Mrs T Jennings	School Business Manager : Ms V Foley

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Monitoring Social Media

Along with other schools, we have recently been dealing with an increasing number of issues arising from children using social media platforms. As ever, technology develops at a rapid rate, so **monitoring your child's usage is essential**. It is a real challenge as a parent to keep abreast of these changes, and often children are one step ahead of us. As a school, we are expected to ensure that online safety has a high profile both within the curriculum, and by sharing information with parents. The critical question is: **"Do you know exactly what your child is doing online or on their phone"** and the challenge is: **"How best to monitor this"**.

Many of the incidents we have to deal with involve Apps and games where the age limit requires everyone to be at least 13 years old before they can create and use an account. If your child is younger than 13 and has created an account, it is recommended that you delete the App. We have asked all parents to monitor their child's phone each day. Children are responsible for the words and actions used within the chat, and these are often recorded for all to see. Please see our school website https://st-elizabeth.uk/index.php/Pages/ESAFETY for support and guidance on how to keep your child safe or visit https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety- or Centre/https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/ for further online safety advice.

We take E-Safety very seriously at St Elizabeth, therefore, the school has decided to record all online incidents that come to our attention. We will contact parents for a meeting and hope you will work with us to stop any further incidents. If a case is serious we will report to CEOP or the Police.

Online Incident Record

Child's name			
Class		Date	
Incident			
Recorded by			
Reported to			
Child's comment			
Parent(s) comment			

What is the impact on the children?

As children are not allowed to use their phones in school, we are dealing with the behaviour of the children on devices and Apps they use at home. However, issues arise at school, which take staff a large amount of time to resolve, and this inevitably **impacts on learning time**. As part of online safety guidance, we have discussed with the older KS2 children the fact that, over the past few years there have been a number of "celebrities" and important figures who have lost jobs/roles due to unkind words posted when they were younger and tragically some have lost their lives. Teaching your child only to write something they would happily say in front of you or to the person themselves, is a good stepping stone. If you do allow your child access to social media Apps, I would advise you to closely monitor what they have written and received. **As adults, it is important that we guide and control what the children are exposed to. We cannot do this alone, as a school; we need you, parents and carers, to be active partners to ensure that the children are safe online.**

Thank you for your support.

Ms A John
Headteacher