

Our Ref: TJ/AF

Your Ref:

November 2016



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Dear Parent/Carer

Staying safe online

As Christmas approaches many of you may be considering buying your child a new mobile phone, games console or other device which has the potential to connect to the internet and social media.

Whilst we hope that your children will have a lot of fun developing useful skills and talking to friends and family, we are also concerned about some of the potential risks you and your child may encounter online.

As professionals working in the area of safeguarding, we are particularly concerned about the risk of young people being contacted by people they do not know and who may wish them harm including sexual exploitation which can be either on-line contact or could lead to physical contact.

Please find attached a leaflet with some more information which we hope will assist you in having a discussion with your child in an age appropriate way. When you buy your device you may find that retailers will assist with security controls.

You may also have seen earlier correspondence with regard to an e-learning course developed by the national charity [Parents against Child Sexual Exploitation \(PACE\)](http://www.paceuk.info/the-problem/keep-them-safe/) which can be accessed via <http://www.paceuk.info/the-problem/keep-them-safe/>.

You can also access information on the Nottinghamshire Police website <https://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/advice/prevention/online>

It is also important that you encourage your child to tell you, or a trusted adult, if anyone they do not know asks them to meet up or to do something they do not feel comfortable about.

Finally if you have any concerns about your child please seek the advice of professionals either through your child's school, Children's Social Care at the MASH 0300 500 80 90 or the Police on 101 depending on the level of urgency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Few'.

Chris Few
Independent Chair
Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board