

## Online Safety Guidance for Students

### Introduction:

The online world is second nature to many of our students and we respect their knowledge. That said - however familiar and comfortable we are online, safety is exceptionally important.

Staff and students should be aware that, although a wonderful resource, online activity, (including but not limited to social media) needs to be managed very deliberately in order to avoid potential harm.

This harm could include unexpected friendship issues, bullying, blackmail, prejudice and abuse, sexual or financial exploitation, sexual abuse, criminal recruitment, catfishing, scams and fraud, misinformation and fake news, the impact of your digital footprint on future plans, trolling, exposure to damaging and unhelpful content, and even criminal conviction if students do not know the current laws around issues such as sexting.

We encourage students to think very carefully about these issues - to read and think about the information we share, even if they feel they know how to keep themselves safe.

### **Our safe and secure college system:**

Our college system, which uses Google platforms on our own network, means that students can work in a safe and secure environment - all students and staff must use these safe channels to communicate and collaborate.

If students collaborate electronically during a lesson then they should use a breakout room on Google Meet, or use Chat to message or video call. They should not set up study groups using other social media platforms - the college system offers important safeguards. All students are able to access these apps, even if they choose to have limited access to a smartphone/ other apps/ social media and so the use of our college platforms is also fair and accessible.

1:1 sessions with staff should take place using college platforms.

### **Telephone contact:**

Occasionally we may need to use a telephone to contact a student. Student mobile phone numbers are listed on schoolpod and may be used if we are concerned about well being - all staff personal numbers will be withheld.

### **Online teaching and support meetings:**

If students are communicating with staff online, in a class, small group, 1:1 or in a support

meeting, then we ask that students look at our guidance for safe and effective online learning.

Teachers will ask students to unmute their mics to contribute to online classes and support meetings.

Pastoral contact can be offered via messaging if a student is more comfortable with this.

Staff may ask students to put their cameras on during the discussion section of the lesson or a support meeting. This will allow the staff member to read the students' reactions, as we do in a classroom setting. Students are able to change their background before logging into Google Meet or whilst in Meet so that their privacy of their home is maintained. No student will be forced to turn on their camera - if they wish not to do so, then this will be respected.

Students should not be on simultaneous calls with others outside S6C during a college class, meeting or club.

Students should be up and dressed for online sessions, unless they are unwell, in which case they may wish to be off screen for any support meetings - this is important for safeguarding reasons but also for positive mental health and wellbeing.

### **Online safety in the Life Skills programme:**

Online safety is taught in Life Skills in the first half term of each academic year with a foundation in Year 12 and a recap and extension session in Year 13.

Online safety is also signposted before college holidays and when entering a period of extended online learning.

The presentations and resources can be accessed any time in the Information Classroom. Information is also shared with parents/carers via our Weekly Update.

### **Sexting:**

All students should be aware of the law regarding sexting - this page gives key information for both under and over 18s.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/sexting/>

### **Getting support:**

If students or their families are at all concerned about online safety, for themselves, or for others, then they can contact their Tutor or the Pastoral Lead and we can help you work through the issues, which may involve reporting to the police.

The safeguarding team can be contacted on [safeguarding@salisbury6c.ac.uk](mailto:safeguarding@salisbury6c.ac.uk) and all threats or harm should be reported.

Anyone worried or affected by these issues can get in touch with The Mix:  
<https://www.themix.org.uk/get-support>  
Or Childline: 0800 1111 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

### **Resources:**

Use CEOP to report serious issues to the police, and tell a trusted adult.  
<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Other serious online issues - such as hate crime, racial abuse, discrimination - should not be tolerated and can be reported here:  
[https://www.report-it.org.uk/reporting\\_internet\\_hate\\_crime](https://www.report-it.org.uk/reporting_internet_hate_crime)

This website contains key online safety information for young people  
<https://www.childnet.com/young-people/secondary>

We want our students to be familiar with this website - in case they ever need information for themselves or a friend.

Students are encouraged to click on each tab along the top Need Advice? Help! Worried About A Friend?  
[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14\\_plus/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus/)