

LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Andrew M Jarman MA Headmaster



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Dear Parents,

New technologies have become integral to the lives of children and young people in today's society, both within schools and in their lives outside school.

The internet and other digital and information technologies are powerful tools, which open up new opportunities for everyone. Electronic communication helps teachers and pupils learn from each other. These technologies can stimulate discussion, promote creativity and increase awareness of context to promote effective learning.

All schools should ensure that children and young people are able to use the internet and related communications technologies appropriately and safely. Our school e-safety policy is designed to help ensure safe and appropriate use. The development and implementation of such a strategy involves all the stakeholders in a child's education from the headmaster and governors to the senior leaders and classroom teachers, support staff, parents and the pupils themselves.

The use of these exciting and innovative tools in school and at home has been shown to raise educational standards and promote pupil / student achievement. However, the use of these new technologies can put young people at risk within and outside the school. Some of the dangers they may face include:

- Access to illegal, harmful or inappropriate images or other content
- Unauthorised access to or loss of personal information
- The sharing of personal images without consent or knowledge
- Inappropriate communication or contact with others
- Cyber-bullying
- Plagiarism and copyright infringement
- Illegal downloading of music or video files
- The potential for excessive use

Many of these risks reflect situations in the off-line world and our e-safety policy is used in conjunction with other school policies (e.g. behaviour, anti-bullying and child protection policies) in order to reflect this situation.

As with all other risks, it is impossible to eliminate those risks completely. It is therefore essential, through good educational provision to build pupils' resilience to the risks to which they may be exposed, so that they have the confidence and skills to face and deal with these risks.

The school provides the necessary safeguards, such as filtering and the use of passwords etc, to help manage and reduce these risks. In addition, the pupils will receive information in school assemblies, which will be followed up in form periods, addressing wider educational issues in order to help them to be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other communications technologies.

Some of the key guidelines include:

- Don't give out personal information such as full name, address, phone number etc.
- Don't arrange to meet someone you have only been on touch with online.
- Accepting emails and invitations from people you don't know can lead to problems.
- Information that you find on the internet may not be reliable or someone online may be lying about who they are.
- Tell a parent or other trusted adult if you are concerned about something you saw online or if something made you feel upset or uncomfortable.

In order to help you support our aims, we have obtained a copy of a CD-ROM for the parents of each 1st year pupil. It has been provided by Childnet International, one of the leading organizations working in e-safety. In addition, you can access further information regarding e-safety through the parents section of the LRGS website. I hope that you will find this information useful and will feel able to support the school's efforts in this area.

The LRGS e-safety policy and education programme is being reviewed and developed by Mr. King and Mr. Hallsworth, together with Mr. Whitehouse and Mr. Buckland. If you have any questions regarding e-safety or the issues discussed on the CD-ROM, please contact them at school on 01524 580600 or via email at iwhitehouse@lrgs.org.uk

Yours faithfully,

A. M. JARMAN
Headmaster