153 Commercial Road
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4th November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

<u>Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online.</u>

Do you feel confident and aware about what your child does online and who they are communicating with?

Do you know about the social media and messaging sites that young people are using, the risks these might bring and how you might protect your child from them?

We would like to invite you to a free workshop that will deal with these questions and more. It will focus on the importance of knowing where our young people are and who they are communicating with, helping you to have those really important conversations that build strong relationships and set appropriate boundaries with your child. It will be suitable for parents of children of all ages.

The Internet and smartphones mean that our young people can be reached by strangers more easily and that they have ways of communicating that are not easy for us to monitor or control. It is not enough to tell children 'not to speak to strangers' or to confiscate smartphones when they are not used properly. The safety of our students is the most important priority at WHS and we very much hope that you will find this session highly informative and helpful.

The session will take place at Wapping High School on Wednesday the 30th November at 4pm-5pm. Please complete and return the slip below if you would like to attend.

In the meantime, please see below 10 tips on how you can keep your child safe online.

Yours faithfully,

Ms J Overare (Head of Fleet House)

<u>Child Safety Workshop -Wednesday 30th November 2022 - -4pm -5pm</u>

Parent's Name(s)**:** _____

I/we would like to attend the child safety workshop on [date].

Student's Name: _____ Year Group**:** _____

The Wapping and Shadwell
Secondary Education Trust Company
Number: 07412515

10 tips to stay safe online

Not sure what advice to give your child? Please see some pointers below:

1. Be careful about talking to people you don't know and trust in real life – anyone can pretend to be a child online. If you do talk to people you don't know, don't give away personal information – such as what street you live on or where you go to school, or share your location with them. Say no to any requests they send you for images or videos of yourself, and stop talking to them

2. Set your profiles to private, to limit what others can see.

3. Think carefully about what you share and with who. Once you've shared an image, you've no control over what the other person does with it. Remember, it's **illegal** to take, share or view sexual images of under-18s, full stop.

4. Be mindful of your digital footprint. What you post online now could come back to bite you later, like when applying for jobs, college or university.

5. If you see something upsetting, or someone bullies you, tell an adult you trust. Report it too.

6. When reading news online, ask yourself what the source is, when it was published, and whether it could be a hoax or made up. Read beyond the headline too

7. Remember, people try to make their lives look more exciting and interesting online. There's a lot people can do with photo editing to make their photos look better. So don't assume everything you see is a true-to-life representation

8. Watch out for hoaxes and scams, like messages you're meant to forward on or that ask you for payment details or your password

9. Take any content that seems to glamourise gang lifestyles with a very large pinch of salt – it's not as glamorous as it looks. Be wary of schemes promising easy cash for receiving and transferring money too, they're almost definitely criminal activity

10. Watch out for loot boxes or other parts of games where you pay money to take a chance on getting a reward – you can get sucked into spending lots of money on them

For further information please visit the following website:
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety