



# THE APPLETON SCHOOL

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*Achieving Excellence*

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Dear Parents/Guardians

You may be aware that this week is Internet Safety Week. We wish to take this opportunity to encourage parents to discuss with their children their online activities, to ensure all of our students are safe.

As you are aware in year 7 all students take part in an assessed E Safety course as part of their curriculum. This is reinforced in all year groups in our CPSHEE programme. This year in assemblies we have used two case studies with students concerning staying safe online. In years 9 to 11 we have used the case study entitled Kayleigh's Love Story and we have used materials produced by Leicestershire Police. This is a harrowing true story in which a girl is groomed online and murdered within 15 days of linking with her abuser online. The full clip can be found at:

<https://leics.police.uk/categories/kayleighs-love-story-film>

It would be helpful if parents would also view this material and then follow this up with individual conversations with their children regarding their online activities. Our over-riding message has been that if you have any concerns tell a trusted adult. At school our safeguarding staff are led by Mr Stockdale.

In the younger year groups we have had speakers from the Breck Foundation in school. This is another harrowing story of a young man who was groomed through computer games and later murdered in Grays, Essex at the age of 14. Our message on these occasions to students has been that grooming can happen to anyone – boys as well as girls. If parents would like to view some of the resources used with students they can be found at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03gkbnv>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-45560790>

We hope that through working together that we can keep all of our students safe. If you wish to discuss any matter further please do not hesitate to contact any of our safeguarding staff.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Kerridge  
Headteacher

