



High Ash School

Important - Online Safety Awareness – Issue 1

October 2025

How is the Internet, Social Media & Technology raising your child?

Do we know enough to do enough?

For Parents, Carers & Guardians

We know that the opening headline questions we have asked above are difficult and perhaps uncomfortable ones to ask of ourselves but they are increasingly important to ensure the ongoing safety of our children.

All our children have access to various online platforms, social media and applications and are reading, watching, listening to or engaging with information online. This could mean that they may be influenced directly by what they see and hear or from people they 'follow' as influencers. Perhaps a direct or indirect peer pressure to conform and join in exists for them, and so the above questions do need to be asked - how much are the internet, the various platforms, apps and social medias that they use shaping their thinking and actions - and this can be despite the education and guidance they may be receiving at High Ash School and from yourselves at home?

As we know technology, the internet, social media and the multitude of apps available are constantly evolving. The likelihood is that all of these potential 'affecting factors' simply either didn't exist in our/your generation or certainly weren't present in the same guise (eg via smart phones), and so if we are honest with ourselves are we actually up to speed? **Do we know enough to do enough** to protect our children from harm when using these technologies, platforms and apps? Do we maybe operate on a "it wont happen here" thought process or simply just rely on the filters we apply at home and believe that to be enough? Do we base our danger judgements on the more available so called 'day to day' apps that we know of and use ourselves?

We appreciate that this can be a minefield and so to help you further in this regard we plan to issue out a couple of newsletters to you all which we hope will shed some light on certain topics, stimulate/restimulate your thinking and increase your awareness of the issues that our children may be encountering when online.

To kick start this support, in this first newsletter and with your childrens' online safety in mind, we'd like to draw your attention the already established Online Safety page on the High Ash School website - please do take some time to look at this page, <https://www.highashschool.co.uk/page/?title=Online+safety&pid=556>.

Within its newsletters out to you all, the school also provides a link to a really useful monthly newsletter that we subscribe to from a great external expert source, Knowsley, the latest of which can be found via this link <https://www.highashschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=4828&type=pdf>

Of course, it is important to balance our message to you all as the internet, technologies, platforms and applications can definitely provide fantastic useful information and tools to our children, however there is a flip side to those positives - one of dangers and of a number of growing concerns that we should all be more aware of, hence why we wanted to issue these newsletters and raise more awareness and support you further.

I am sure that you are all already doing a great number of things to protect your children online at home and on their devices, but as ever there is always more we can all do. We certainly don't profess to be experts, but we do hope you find these upcoming updates useful.

Kind Regards

High Ash School and the Board of Governors