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Headteacher: Mrs Katherine White BSc (Econ) Hons, MBA

30th April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Being Kind and Respectful to Each Other in the True Notre Dame and St Boniface way

Since we have had lockdown and so much of our lives moved online for a while, we are finding in school that we are dealing with more issues for our students with regards to their internet safety and the way they communicate with other online and sometimes in person.

Please can we all remind our young people that they must always speak to each other and to the adults who care for them with kindness and in a respectful way, whether in person or online. It is vital for our school communities that we are supportive of each other and that we look after our more vulnerable students. Our schools have always had a great reputation for being kind, welcoming and caring places and we must work very hard together to ensure this remains the case. It is never acceptable to call others names, to tease them or laugh at them, either in person or online and this can result in very serious consequences for others.

Safe Internet Use

Many of our students tell us about the exciting internet games that they play at home or the channels they watch about celebrity culture. However, we are hearing more and more young people talking about playing games which they are legally too young to play e.g. over 18-year-old games and more students becoming obsessed with celebrity 'shallowness'. In your children's interests, please consider that the age limit is there for a reason. Games are often violent and contain inappropriate language. Although this seems like a game, our young people then use the actions and the language with their friends in school. Please consider carefully what your son or daughter is playing or watching online. Please consider carefully whether they should have social media accounts and if they do please monitor their feeds, so that you can quickly pick up on any inappropriate or hurtful communications. All online threats, intimidation, enticement or bullying must be reported to the police, who will take such activity very seriously.

Click on this link for information to support keeping your son or daughter safe online:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/support-tools>

Also attached is a newsletter from SCOMIS issued in March with lots of useful information regarding online safety.

With kind regards for a safe and lovely bank holiday weekend.

KM White

Mrs Kate White
Headteacher