

January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: eSafety

At Lightcliffe Academy we are committed to supporting students to keep them safe online and keeping parents and carers informed on how they can protect their children from any potential dangers in the online world.

With this in mind there have been reports in the media over the last couple of days about an e-safety incident involving children from Leeds.

This incident has highlighted a number of safeguarding issues raised recently about smartphone 'apps' including Live.ly, ooVoo, and music.ly amongst others. These apps are supposed to only be able to access contacts on the user's phones, but it appears that quite quickly unknown individuals are able to join group chats. Therefore, these apps are not safe for children to use as there is a significant risk of inappropriate contact by unknown individuals.

Our advice for parents is to ensure that your children do not have access to such apps on their phone and to check that all appropriate privacy settings are switched on, to make sure that children are protected when using any internet site. Please take the time to talk to your child about the importance of telling you immediately if anything happens to them online that make them uncomfortable or scared.

If your child experiences or expresses concerns about online activity, it must be reported to the police using 101 and <https://ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/>. Wherever possible, a screen shot or a mobile phone picture of the concern should be taken for reporting purposes.

There is some useful information on the Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board website about online safety with some useful tips for parents here: www.calderdale-scb.org.uk

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully

N Collins

Mr N Collins
Assistant Principal