

January 2017

Dear Parents/ Carers

We have been contacted by Leeds Safeguarding Children Board to inform you of a serious e-safety incident involving primary age children in Leeds. We would like to reassure you that this incident did not take place in a Leeds school or involve any 'apps' that are recommended by Leeds schools. The incident is now being investigated by West Yorkshire Police.

This incident has highlighted several safeguarding issues raised recently about smartphone 'apps' including: Live.ly, OoVoo, Music.ly amongst others. These apps are supposed to only access contacts on the user's phones, but it appears that quite quickly unknown individuals can 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 and therefore a high risk of children being exploited.

I would therefore urge you to ensure your child does not have access to these apps on their phone. Also please ensure that your child has appropriate privacy settings switched on to make sure that they are protected when using any internet site.

If a 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.

We will continue to talk to children about staying safe online through school assemblies and the wider classroom curriculum.

There is some useful information on the LSCB website about online safety with some useful tips for parents <http://www.leedslscb.org.uk/Parents-Carers-Wider-Family/Keeping-children-safe-online>

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Binns

Head of Academy