

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Dear Parent/Carer

## Online Safety Update – Summer 2021

I would like to share some links to websites which will help support you in keeping your child safe and protect their digital footprint. I would be grateful if you could discuss the issues below with them.

### Reporting Indecent Images

Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) have made available a brand new tool so that children and young people can report a nude image or video of themselves in order that the IWF can take steps to remove it from the internet.

Importantly, a young person can even report an image/video that hasn't been uploaded and shared. The IWF will assign a 'hash' to prevent the image being uploaded by anyone.

This is an incredibly positive step forward and I would urge you to share this information with your family and friends.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/remove-nude-image-shared-online/>

### Social Media Concerns

Given the many concerns that parents have in relation to their child's use of social media, Internet Matters have put together a very useful resource page on their site with lots of advice and tips.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/social-media-concerns/>

### Loot Boxes

You may be aware of the concerns of loot boxes in games, particularly related to gambling-like behaviour, given that purchasing loot boxes within games is essentially a game of chance and the fact that over 70% of the popular games that children and young people play contain them.

In an interesting and unexpected development, EA, the developer of the hugely popular Fifa range of games, now lets players see what is in the loot boxes before they buy them. It is always interesting to have a discussion with children about loot boxes, particularly in relation to how much they spend, do they refer to it as gambling, do they see Fifa Points, V-Bucks, Robux etc. as real money. You could use this new development as a conversation starter.

*Believe.....*

Principal Mrs C Walmsley  
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

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As always, my message to our pupils is the same: technology should be enjoyed and celebrated but we must always use it responsibly and behave appropriately online as we do offline. Having a positive 'digital footprint' is vital to our young people and their future.

I wish you a safe and happy summer

Mr A Korab