



# New Town Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We continue to be aware about the access that many children have to on-line social media, games and YouTube. It has been brought to our attention that there has been an increase nationally in “self-generated” child sexual abuse material. **The Internet Watch Foundation** has launched a campaign to raise awareness of this trend which mainly concerns girls who are aged just 11-13.

*In the last year, “self-generated” child sexual abuse imagery has increased by 77% and is a third of all child sexual abuse material identified and removed from the internet. These included images of young girls whose abuse had been recorded via a webcam in a domestic setting.*

To help prevent the creation of this type of abusive imagery, there is a campaign by **The Internet Watch Foundation** (IWF) backed by the Home Office and Microsoft. It aims to help raise awareness of this type of criminality among parents and carers, empower and educate young girls to spot the techniques used by sexual predators and give them the knowledge to **Block, Report, Tell** someone they trust. It is a national campaign running from Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April for six weeks. You can find out more information on **The Internet Watch Foundation website**-[www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)

As parents and teachers we have a duty to monitor and be aware of what the children in our care are accessing; there is no doubt that the internet has a huge influence on all our lives and we must protect children from harm.

At home, as parents and carers, it is your duty to:

- agree boundaries for use and explore sites together
- install all parental controls where possible
- time limit device access
- only allow access in a communal place in the house (not in bedrooms)
- talk to older siblings to ensure they don't share access
- ensure websites, accounts or social media which require your child to be 13 (or older) are not used by them.

At school we will educate your child about on-line safety and to notify you if we hear of children using social media inappropriately. We are, however, not able to control children's internet access at home through laptops, tablets or mobile phones, and this remains a critical aspect for parents to control.

Yours sincerely

Miss P. Cornish  
Headteacher