

Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Ms J Brown BEd Hons NPQH
Headteacher
Tel: 01304 374464
Fax: 01304 370900
email: secretary@deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk



Gladstone Road
Walmer, Deal
Kent CT14 7ER

Website: www.deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk

9th February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Online conduct and social media game play in KS2

At school we have come across many pupils who are exposing themselves to dangers on the internet and gaming whilst at home – most parents we have spoken to are completely unaware of what their child is doing to put themselves in danger.

In working collaboratively with parents, we have recently been made aware of concerning issues regarding online chat groups and game playing amongst a number of pupils, particularly those in upper KS2. These have included some content that is abusive making unkind comments and messages between pupils, sharing inappropriate images, and discussions regarding topics unsuitable for this age group. Additionally we have found false profiles created under other pupils' names with the intent to create division between friendship groups.

From talking with pupils, a significant number are playing games which are deemed unsuitable for younger children and as such have been given an "18" rating.

These games are rated as such because they contain extreme scenes which can be upsetting to children. It has also been shown that these themes can influence behaviour and attitude, normalising extreme violence and unsuitable behaviour.

The consequence of this is that pupils can come into school feeling upset and vulnerable which can affect their behaviour. It disturbs sleep patterns preventing good quality sleep. We are also aware that children are using devices in their bedrooms in to the late hours of the night. An increasing amount of time is being spent within school trying to resolve issues created by online behaviour, in particular content of group chats. This is impacting on teaching and learning time.

As the children do not have access to these sites and games at school, the responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media, or indeed the internet in general, must lie with parents/guardians.

We strongly encourage you to discuss issues around this with your children.

We are keen that parents help the school by monitoring their child's online behaviour so that together we can educate pupils about how to enjoy the internet safely and in a positive way, protecting them from potential emotional harm.

I appreciate that monitoring young people is everybody's responsibility and that it is increasingly difficult to keep up with the ever changing digital world. We are here at school to help and offer support.

Please refer to our school website for national up to date advice.

Many thanks for your support

Yours sincerely

Justine Brown

