

June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reporting Harmful Content Online

The latest Online Nation report by Ofcom, suggests that only 14% of young people (13-17 years old) are reporting and flagging potentially harmful content or behaviour they see online. We have been made aware of some social media accounts posing as BMA students some of which does contain upsetting content. Although we have taken steps to address this and are reporting accounts, we still require support from Parents and Carers to ensure that young people are staying safe online.

What Inappropriate Content Are Children and Young People Seeing Online?

Unfortunately, children and young people are likely to be the target of some types of inappropriate content and abusive behaviors that adults won't be. This includes grooming attempts, targeted exposure to sexual materials and cyberbullying.

Getting support if things go wrong

There are lots of organisations who are there to support you and your family if something has gone wrong. Our advice would be to **block** the account to avoid any further distress and then **report** this content. The <u>Report Harmful</u> <u>Content</u> website can help you with issues such as cyberbullying, impersonation and threats. You can report worrying behaviour towards children to <u>CEOP</u>. Each platform also has their own reporting pages and here are some of the more commonly used sites;

<u>TikTok</u> <u>Snapchat</u> <u>Instagram</u>

Reassuring your child that whatever happens online, you are there to support them

Let your child know that the best way to address any problem they have online, is to tell a trusted adult immediately. Reassure them that if anything happens online that they are unsure about, or makes them feel worried or upset, they can come to you for help.

Our school website is also updated with relevant safeguarding information and online support resources and this can be found <u>here.</u>

You can contact us if you have any online safety concerns via the BMA Safeguarding Team email bmasafeguarding@clf.uk

Yours Sincerely,

Lacie Hooper E-Safety Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

