



4 January 2021

REMOTE LEARNING: SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE FOR ST CHRIS PUPILS

As we transition back to virtual learning platforms after the Christmas break, it is important to think about the parameters of the online environment, and what young people are able to access.

Virtual learning certainly offers opportunities, but it also raises some concerns for both parents and pupils; below is some key information about how to stay safe during this period.

SAFEGUARDING AND REMOTE LEARNING

Here are some recommendations for families to consider:

1. Think through setting parental controls on your Wi-Fi. You can block access to inappropriate content, set time limits and gain greater control for your children.
2. Talk to your children regularly and openly about online behaviour and risk, so that they know they can come to you if something goes wrong.
3. Most pupils will be communicating through social media. It may be wise to remind them that any inappropriate online activity, which is brought to our attention, will be dealt with in line with our current School policies (that can be accessed on the website here <https://www.stchris.co.uk/about-us/policies/> and the parent portal). Although pupils will be working from home, our policies will still apply.
4. Teachers will only be able to contact pupils on their school email address and through Microsoft Teams. Any further contact will be via parents as sole point of contact. Be vigilant about accepting any requests from suspicious accounts such as people using a non stchris.co.uk email, or from fake accounts or bogus teachers.
5. There will be no opportunity to have 1:1 consultations between pupils and individual teachers over Microsoft Teams without prior arrangement with parents and a third party present.

SELF-ISOLATING & DEALING WITH CONFLICT AND ANXIETY

With the Government's recommendations to limit social contact and physical interaction, many people will be spending more time at home than they are used to.

This will usually mean spending more time with family and carers, and this can create challenging circumstances, especially for those coping with pre-existing family problems.

- The Children's Society have released these top tips for dealing conflict at home. <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/news-and-blogs/our-blog/dealing-with-conflict-at-home>
- Dr. Jon Goldin is a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist who works at Great Ormond Street Hospital. In the following podcast he discusses child mental health in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. <https://www.acamh.org/podcasts/dr-jon-goldin-on-the-coronavirus-and-child-mental-health/>



- The Children's Commissioner has produced an excellent digital 5 a day guidance, the link is here:
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/our-work/digital/5-a-day/>

The School's robust safeguarding procedures will still be in place throughout this virtual learning period and the Pastoral team, run by Gavin Fraser-Williams, will be working proactively to prioritise communication and pupil welfare.

Advisers, Personal Tutors, teachers and all staff at St Chris are aware of our protocols and procedures during this period, however, please do contact me or any of the other Designated Safeguarding Leads (contact details below) should you require any assistance.

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