



RESPECT
BELIEVE
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Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School

Honey's Green Lane, West Derby Address
Liverpool, L12 9HZ

0151 235 1430 Tel
www.cardinal-heenan.org.uk Web
admin@cardinal-heenan.org.uk Email

Ms K. Smyth Headteacher

JH/LL

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Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Online Safety – Supporting Our Young People in the Digital World

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and student wellbeing, we want to raise awareness about online safety - particularly in relation to popular platforms such as Snapchat and TikTok.

While social media can offer creative and social opportunities, it also presents risks that young people may not fully understand. We are increasingly seeing how these platforms can expose students to inappropriate content, online bullying, and pressure to engage in risky trends or challenges.

Snapchat is widely used for its disappearing messages and “Snap Map” feature, which can share a user’s real-time location with others. This can pose serious privacy concerns, especially if location sharing is not restricted to trusted friends.

TikTok, known for its short-form videos, can be a fun and creative outlet. However, it also includes content that may be unsuitable for younger users, and its algorithm can quickly lead children to harmful or distressing material. Some viral challenges have also raised safety concerns.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (gen AI) is a growing concern. We think this video is a useful summary for parents and carers to watch ([VIDEO](#)).

The Online Safety Act, which came into force in March 2025, now places **legal duties** on platforms like Snapchat and TikTok to protect children from harmful and age-inappropriate content. Under this law, companies must:

- Prevent children from accessing illegal or harmful material.
- Provide clear and accessible ways to report problems.
- Respond promptly to enforcement action from Ofcom, the UK’s communications regulator.

These changes are designed to make the digital world safer for young people, but **parental guidance remains essential**. We encourage all parents and carers to take the following actions:

- **Talk openly and regularly** with your child about their online life—what they enjoy, what worries them, and who they interact with.
- **Set boundaries and expectations** around screen time, app usage, and online behaviour.
- **Check privacy settings** on apps like Snapchat and TikTok to ensure they are age-appropriate and limit location sharing.



- **Use parental controls** available on devices and apps to restrict access to inappropriate content.
- **Model safe behaviour** by being mindful of your own digital habits and discussing why certain content may be harmful.
- **Encourage critical thinking**—help your child question what they see online and recognise when something feels unsafe, wrong or manipulative.
- **Know how to report**—familiarise yourself and your child with reporting tools on each platform and encourage them to speak to a trusted adult if something goes wrong.

We will continue to educate students about online safety through our curriculum and pastoral support. If you have any concerns or would like further guidance, please don't hesitate to contact us.

For further support, we recommend visiting:

- [Childnet Parents & Carers Toolkit](#)
- [Internet Matters Online Safety Hub](#)
- [NSPCC Online Safety Guidance](#)

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our students safe - both in school and online.

Best wishes



Ms J Leech

Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead