Old Church C.E. (C) Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we are going to be exploring Anti-Bullying Week with the students. We work with an organisation called 'VotesforSchools' who provide our school and hundreds across the country with a weekly current affairs debate that our students discuss and then vote on. This gives them a voice beyond the gates of our school.

VotesforSchools are using Anti-Bullying Week to provide us with a discussion and debate around current forms of gaming and social media that children and young people are using to anonymously bully each other. We want to ensure our staff are equipped with the latest knowledge of these apps and games, so we can have a conversation that is relevant and meaningful with our children about how to safely and appropriatly engage with technology but also know the risks.

VotesforSchools will also ensure our staff can also promote the benefits of apps and games and how our children can use them to report bullying and other safeguarding issues.

Below are some websites that can help you as a parent/carer to support your child if they are victim of any type of bullying.

We look forward to these conversations throughout the week; please do contact a member of staff if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Ms L Thomason
Deputy Headteacher

NSPCC has comprehensive guidance for parents/carers on lots of topics linked to all kinds of bullying, and cyberbullying specifically. It includes tips on staying safe online, how to set up parental controls online and what to do if you are concerned about a child.

- https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

Two really useful lists of popular apps to be aware of (descriptions and risks included):
- https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/16-apps-and-websites-kids-are-heading-to-after-facebook
- https://sheerluxe.com/2018/04/24/10-apps-teens-are-using-parents-should-watch-out

Common Sense Media promote safe technology and media for children, including film ratings, apps and books.
- www.commonsensemedia.org

NetAware's guide rates popular apps for safety, age appropriateness, likelihood of bullying and many other factors.
- www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/

The government has created guidance on Child Safety Online. It covers the risks they face and practical tips for minimising risk.
- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers-whose-children-are-using-social-media