



THE AVON VALLEY SCHOOL & PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

10th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Digital filtering and monitoring technology can play a vital role in helping schools to adopt a whole school approach to safeguarding. It helps to facilitate the safest space possible for students to learn and thrive. At The Avon Valley School, our Governors have a legal obligation to ensure that digital monitoring technology is up to date and that the infrastructure is in place for the Safeguarding Team to be alerted to risks both on and offline.

As we know, some risks can be out of sight of parents and carers, the Safeguarding Team and the wider school staff, especially those risks online. When a student becomes vulnerable online, there can be clues that parents and carers can spot such as changes in mood and a sudden deterioration in their motivation and engagement in previously enjoyed activities, to name a few. The effects of the digital world on young people can sometimes have a devastating impact on both their mental health and their well-being as well as on their relationships with peers and family. Effective digital monitoring plays a vital role in identifying and managing a young person's exposure to these 'hidden' risks.

We have recently reviewed our monitoring systems and have purchased an improved package which will help us to spot such risks before they escalate; it will help us to detect problems, and we will therefore be in a position to support many more students from potential harm, including those who had not previously been shown to be at risk.

Our updated digital safeguarding system allows us to monitor students' use of the internet and emails on the school network. Any inappropriate language or searching on the internet is instantly tracked and reported to the school safeguarding team. We will then discuss this with your child and make contact home with parents and carers.

This new, enhanced level of monitoring comes with extra support for parents. All parents and carers now have access to the Warwickshire Online Safeguarding Hub which is packed full of advice, guidance, online safety tech support, app and games reviews and so much more.

I am delighted to share that alongside this support, all our parents and carers now have free access to Qustodio - an all-in-one parental control and digital wellbeing solution. Qustodio Family gives parents everything you need to protect your children on their personal devices so they can flourish with technology, whether they're at home, at school or anywhere else. This exclusive package includes basic protection for 2 personal devices. Please use the link below to access the Online Safeguarding Hub and set-up your free Qustodio account.

<https://warwickshire.onlinesafetyhub.uk/>

<https://warwickshire.onlinesafetyhub.uk/parent/parent-app/qustodio/about>

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Warwickshire Online Safety, in collaboration with Smoothwall, will be delivering an online safety workshop for parents and carers on Wednesday 29th November 7.30pm to 8.30pm. I strongly encourage all parents and carers to sign up and join this virtual session as there will be practical hints and tips to support your children and information on how to keep them safe online, and learn how to keep up to date in the ever changing online world. Please see the poster attached for further information.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that all parents and carers at AVS also have free access to the National Online Safety platform, which offers online courses, video guides and weekly updates on a whole array of digital safeguarding issues. You can set up your account by using the link below:

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/the-avon-valley-School-and-performing-arts-college>

There are also a number of other websites where parents and carers can access information relating to this topic:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like any further advice or support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Laura Bindley
Designated Safeguarding Lead