



ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, FCCT, B.Ed(Hons), M.Ed, NPQH, NPQEL



18 January 2024

Dear Families

Ref: Online safety – concerns about children's conduct online

I am sorry to have to write to you all once more about the concerns which have arisen regarding some of our students' online activity and personal conduct.

It transpired that a platform called **Fandom**, which aims to unite people with similar interests and allow them the space for online interactions related to their hobbies/interests, has been used in a way that might be illegal.

Comments which might be classed as abusive and discriminatory or, at the least, unkind and hurtful, have been shared, identifying some students of Abbot's Lea School.

As such, whilst thanking the young whistle-blowers who rightly brought it to my attention, I stand by the previously communicated principle that it is neither my job, nor my skillset to investigate cyber activity taking place outside of the school.

Instead, I this matter has now been reported to the Police for their investigation.

Families of students whose names were disclosed to us, as potential subjects of those online references, have now been contacted.

We are keeping a close eye on the online safety here at school and will revisit this topic in lessons, as well as (specifically) in the assemblies for Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 tomorrow.

I wish to ask you for your cooperation: please discuss the issue of online safety with your child at home and keep parental controls of access and content under close supervision. The Internet is a wonderful resource, but, used unwisely, is also a potential risk to the wellbeing of your child.

We are here to help and so, if you need guidance, assistance, or wish to flag any other online safety concerns related to this situation, please contact: safeguarding@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

Thank you in advance.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher