



*"Be yourself, be anything, we are the future."*

9<sup>th</sup> of May, 2025

## RE. Online Safety for Parents

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take a moment to share with you an opportunity passed on to us by the Bucks Safeguarding Team.

As you know, keeping our pupils safe online is a significant focus at TGMS, whether it be through the [curriculum](#) we deliver to our pupils or our engagement in the ongoing [Guiding Digital Childhoods Project](#). The **Thames Valley Cyber Protect team** is offering free, engaging, and informative **online Cybersecurity training presentations** specifically for parents and carers. These sessions are designed to provide practical, easy-to-implement guidance on how families can stay safe online, and may be particularly useful for those who are concerned about managing their children's online activity.

The session will cover key topics such as:

- **Spotting scams in emails and texts** – Tips to help you and your children recognise phishing and other common threats.
- **Social media safety** – Understanding risks including disinformation, AI manipulation, and account security.
- **Online gaming risks** – Awareness of the potential dangers in online gaming and how to monitor or restrict usage.
- **Password strength and Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)** – Best practices to protect accounts and personal data.

To sign up and for more information: [Online Safety for Parents by Police - South East Cyber Crime Unit | Eventbrite](#)

This is a valuable opportunity for any parent or carer who wants to better understand the online world their children navigate daily. It may also be of particular help to families facing specific concerns or vulnerabilities in this space.

Please do consider attending or sharing the details with others in the community who may benefit.

Finally, one of the most common TGMS-contextual Online Safety issues the school has to deal with is the upset (including cyberbullying) that happens on **phone group chats** between pupils. We understand some of their benefits, including convenient organisation of wholesome, real-world activities like meeting up at the park. But we have also observed serious issues when pupils use these platforms to continue disagreements or arguments, rather than being able to calm down at home and deal with this in person the next day. We educate and encourage our pupils to manage this effectively, but please support us in this, and monitor your child's usage if they are starting to participate in group chats.

Kind regards

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