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9<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

### **Social Media Use & E-Safety**

At Hamworthy Park Junior School we know that our pupils can only achieve their full potential when they feel safe, secure, and supported. As a result, one of the cornerstones of our policies is a commitment to preventing and addressing bullying behaviours.

It has come to our attention in recent days, that there have been instances in which some of our pupils have been the object of unkind behaviour on social media applications, in particular [Instagram](#). Some of these incidents have involved emotional bullying, where a pupil has repeatedly received unkind messages. These behaviours cannot not be tolerated.

At Hamworthy Park Junior School, assemblies and lessons explore healthy decision-making in the context of online communications and relationships. Additionally, our school leaders and pastoral care team offer day to day support to all stake holders within school, including: children, parents and staff.

As school staff, we understand the importance of our partnership with our parents. Please can you take the time to speak about this very important issue with your children. Similarly, we urge you to discuss with your children what social media and websites they are accessing, and that you have checked 'parental controls' are placed on all gadgets you use at home, so you know your child is unable to access adult material. Please also be aware of the age restrictions for the following apps:

**Instagram - age 13**

**Snapchat - age 13**

**WhatsApp - age 16**

**Facebook –**

### Advice for children - Staying Safe Online

- 1) Do not post any personal information online – your address, email address or mobile number.
- 2) Think carefully before posting pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture online most people can see it and may be able to download it, it's not just yours anymore.
- 3) Keep your privacy settings as high as possible
- 4) Never give out your passwords
- 5) Don't befriend people you don't know
- 6) Don't meet up with people you've met online

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*Every Child, Every Day, Every Possibility*

Hamworthy Park Junior School is proud to be part of the Hillary Partnership and the Hamwic Education Trust





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- 7) Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are
- 8) Think carefully about what you say before you post something online
- 9) Respect other people's views, even if you don't agree it doesn't mean you need to be rude
- 10) If you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried: leave the website, turn off your computer and tell a trusted adult immediately.

Attached is a pdf of the PowerPoint Mrs Amabile and Mr.Boughton used in Friday's assembly.It has also come to light that many children are playing the game "Fortnite". If your child is playing this, then please read the attached information sheet on it.

If you seek any further help or advice please speak to Mrs Amabile, the school's Anti-Bullying Champion, Mr.Boughton, the school's E-Safety champion, or any member of staff, including our Pastoral Care Team, Anita and Laurena.

As always, we thank you for your support!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Amabile  
Deputy Head of School

Mr.Boughton  
E-Safety Champion

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