Internet and mobile phone safety continued:

Children and young people are excited and engaged by all types of technology and you should encourage your child to use them safely. They also need to learn how to manage risks as they will have to all through their lives. Younger children will be much easier to supervise and you will decide if and when they should begin to use these technologies.

Here are some tips to help you to manage the risks.

- Put the computer in a family room where it will be easier for you to supervise your child's online activity.
- Ensure that your child knows they should never give their full name, address and contact details to people they chat to on the internet.
- Create or know your child's passwords and check their search history. Do not create accounts for your child if underage.
- Explain that some people they talk to on the internet may not be who they say they are and might say or do unpleasant or hurtful things.
- Investigate whether the 'parental controls' available from some internet service providers like Bt or Virgin media will be helpful and in-stall software that can filter out inappropriate material.
- Talk to your child about their internet use. Ask them which sites they enjoy most, and why. Show you are interested, while understanding their need for some privacy.
- Impress on your child that they can talk to you if they are worried about something that has happened during their internet use, as you would for anything else.
- Make it very clear that your child must never arrange to meet someone they have chatted to online without your permission. Their new 'friend' might well be a local young person of similar age, but they might not.

For further advice and information visit

Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre: www.ceop.gov.uk
Stop It Now! www.stopitnow.org.uk

You may be alerted to question your child's online activity if they are:

- Spending more and more time on the internet
- Being secretive – reluctant to talk about their internet activity, closing the screen page when you are close by
- Spending less time with the family, or giving up previous hobbies and interest
- Losing interest in their schoolwork, regularly failing to complete homework
- Starting to talk about 'new friends' who you have not met and who do not visit your home
- Overly possessive of their mobile phone or computer – perhaps overreacting if someone picks it up or asks to borrow it
- Showing fear or discomfort when their phone rings, or quickly turning it off without answering
- Undergoing a change in personality that you cannot attribute to any obvious cause

If you are still concerned contact one of the helping agencies listed in this booklet.

Suggested Websites to support families:

http://www.bullying.co.uk/
http://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/
http://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/
http://www.youngminds.org.uk/
http://www.barnardos.org.uk/
https://www.place2be.org.uk/
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/
https://www.childline.org.uk/
http://www.familylives.org.uk/
https://newcastlewestend.foodbank.org.uk/
https://povertychild.org/

Ponteland Community
Middle School

Keeping Children Safe

Safeguarding for Parents Information Booklet

The school will ensure that:

- The welfare of the children remains paramount
- All children have the right to be protected from harm
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to immediately
- All staff and volunteers working at the school have a responsibility to report concerns to the designated member of staff

This booklet has been put together to provide you with information about how we meet our safeguarding and child protection responsibilities. We have also included some guidance on how to help your child keep safe.

The following guidance and policies are linked to the information contained in this leaflet: Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2016), Safeguarding & Child Protection, E-safety, Health & Safety, Safer recruitment, Anti-bullying and Behaviour. These policies can be found on the school website www.ponteland.academy

Working Together

"Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families and carers has a role to play in safeguarding children. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all professionals should make sure their approach is child-centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best Interests of the child."

DfE 'Keeping Children Safe in Education '(2016)

Ponteland Middle School has a moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils. It is our duty of care to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We will be alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and will follow our procedures to ensure that the children receive effective support, protection and justice.'

Ponteland Middle School recognises the importance of safeguarding each and every one of its pupils.

- We work hard to establish and maintain a school environment where children feel safe and secure, where children know that they will be listened to in an open and positive atmosphere.
- We ensure that children know that they can approach any member of staff if they are worried or in difficulty.
- We actively seek the views of children - listening to them and involving them in decisions about their school and their education.
- We will make any referrals necessary to ensure the well being of all children is safeguarded.

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff in school are in a good position to keep a watchful eye on children and their safety and well-being, and to protect them from harm.

PCMS is fully committed to safeguarding our pupils, and as such, regular training and updates are provided for all sta☐

If staff have concerns they understand that they have a duty to share these concerns in the appropriate way with Dr Caroline Pryer (Designated Safeguarding Lead), and in her absence Mrs Joanne Cafferty and Mr Paul Baggett (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads). Dr Pryer, Mrs Cafferty and Mr Baggett have been trained to the appropriate level to undertake this responsibility.

If we have a concern about your child who may be at risk who may be at risk of abuse or neglect we must follow the procedures in our Child Protection policy. In most circumstances, we will talk with you about our concerns and tell you if we felt we should refer our concerns to Children's Social Care.

The Role of the Governing Body:

Safeguarding children is a collective responsibility for the Governing Body. The nominated safeguarding Governor for the school is Dr Kate Owen.

If you have any safeguarding concerns with the Headteacher, please write to the Chair of Governors, Mrs Helen Batey and/or Mr Tony Barber via the school office.

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of your child, or a child you know, you should act without delay. You can ask for advice, or report your concern to:

Hexham Children's Services   01434 603582

Out of Hours Duty Team   01670 822836

Newcastle Children's Services 0191 2772500

Safer Recruitment

When recruiting new staff at least one member of the interview panel is safer recruitment trained. Full references and DBS checks are undertaken for all staff. The school adhere to Northumberland County Council's Safer Recruitment procedures and Mrs D Flint (School Manager) is the safer recruitment lead.

E-safety

The school has a separate policy on internet and e-safety. Learning how to stay safe on-line is a core part of the curriculum. Mr C Johnson is the E-safety coordinator.

Photographing Children

We seek written parental consent for the use of photographs and images for the use of the school (including the school website and publications). The consent seeks consent for the lifetime of the publication.

Internet and mobile phone safety

Mobile phones and computers are a part of everyday life for many children and young people. Used correctly, they are an exciting source of communication, fun and education but used incorrectly, or in the wrong hands they can be threatening and dangerous.

The risks include:

- Cyber-bulling, where hurtful texts, sexting or emails are sent to children
- Children accidentally or deliberately accessing violent or sexually explicit websites, either on a computer or a mobile phone
- Paedophiles talking to children by mobile phone or online and enticing them to engage in sexual conversations, photographs, video or actual meetings.