

Highclare School Press Release



Anti Bullying week, which runs from 16-21 November, is this year urging children to stay safe in cyberspace. The focus comes as we witness an increase in the worrying – and growing – trend that is cyberbullying.

Staff and pupils at Highclare School will be taking part in Anti Bullying week and using it to reinforce the work we have already achieved in the field of E Safety.

Cyberbullying is bullying through the use of information and communication technologies – so via text messages, emails, phone calls, instant messaging and social networking sites. Of course, today's young people have grown up using computers and mobile phones to organise all elements of their lives, from their education, social events and even relationships.

Internet and video games are very popular with children and young people and can offer a range of opportunities for fun, learning and development. The internet and new technologies also offer great benefits and learning opportunities in schools. It is important that pupils learn how to be safe when they are using these new technologies such as social networking sites, which are becoming an essential aspect of creative social learning.

While children are confident with the technology, they are still developing critical evaluation skills and need our help to make wise decisions. In relation to the internet we need a shared culture of responsibility between school, families, government and third parties to reduce the availability of potentially harmful material, increase children's resilience and restrict access to it.

Schools have the opportunity to transform education, help pupils fulfil their potential and raise standards with the use of ICT. Highclare School equips its students with the skills and knowledge they need to use technology safely and and to manage the risks, wherever and whenever they go online. We have had a very successful year working with our students, their families and the community police to promote safe and responsible behaviours in using technology both at school, in the home and beyond.

Children and young people need to be empowered to keep themselves safe – this isn't just about a top-down approach. Children will be children – pushing boundaries and taking risks. At a public swimming pool we have gates, put up signs, have lifeguards and shallow ends, but we also teach children how to swim.

*****ENDS*****

*For further information regarding this or any item concerning Highclare School,
please contact
Julia Baden, Marketing Manager on 0121 386 8218*