8 March 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian(s)

The use of Mobile Phones / other internet enabled devices in school

St John's and King Richard Schools take internet safety very seriously and devote a considerable amount of effort, time and expense keeping our students and staff safe from the less than positive aspects of the World Wide Web.

In order to maintain as much control over the content that students can access, when they are at school, we operate a very simple policy of only allowing school-owned devices to be connected to our Wi-Fi network.

In order to maintain a strong level of security, our Wi-Fi network is controlled using frequently changing passwords which are not given out - even to the teaching staff. All our teaching staff and the 6th Form are issued with school-owned iPads to assist them in their work, and these operate on our school's Wi-Fi network.

All our internet connected devices (including fixed and laptop computers) use web filtering software. We regularly update websites or topics that are blocked and can do so at any time. School owned iPads are protected from these websites, even when used off our premises.

We are very well resourced with technology in our schools, with around 600 iPads or computers to our 350 students. With this level of investment, we do not believe there is a need for the students to have Wi-Fi access on their own devices.

Students are not allowed use their mobile phones in school. We understand that for safety reasons, parents often like their children to have a phone with them for the journey to and from school. When students arrive at school, they should switch them off and keep them in their bag, out of sight. The school accepts no responsibility for students' mobile phones. If students are seen with their mobile phone, they may be confiscated to be returned to them at the end of the school day. I would like to stress that students have no way of accessing Wi-Fi on the school network on their phone or personal mobile device. We also do not allow students to wear headphones around the school sites.

We regularly remind students of the importance of e-safety and only a few weeks ago held events and assemblies to promote 'e-safety week'. More advice for parents and students can be found at: www.saferinternet.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

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