



Safeguarding

As a school we are always working with you to keep our young people safe, and with this in mind, we wanted to bring to your attention a few issues that are causing us, and other schools, some concerns.

BLUE WHALE: This is a game played via many social media platforms. Players are given a master who controls them for 50 days. Each day they are given a task to complete and these tasks increase in intensity over the course of the 50 day period. One task, for example, might be to scratch a blue whale somewhere on their body. On the 50th day the masters behind the game instruct the young people to commit suicide.

SAYAT.ME: This public website allows users and others to leave anonymous posts about other people. We would recommend in the strongest terms that none of our students use this social media platform to request feedback about themselves or to post anything unkind about someone else.

PICKLE: This app encourages users to participate in, and film, a dare for which they will receive payment. Dares are posted anonymously. It suggests that it is “an easy way to make money”. There are many obvious safeguarding concerns with this.

YELLOW: is an app where under 18s can post profile pictures to engage in liking and dating and other conversations of a sexual nature. The app can be linked to Snapchat accounts and there have been some concerns about requests from users of this app for inappropriate pictures. With many of our young people having Snapchat, and potential access to this app, please talk to your son/daughter about the dangers of engaging with others via this app.

SNAPCHAT STREAKS: We have been made aware that some of our students are giving out their passwords to their accounts to friends in order that friends might continue their “snapchat streaks” when they themselves cannot be on snapchat. We have said repeatedly to our students that they **should never give away their passwords** to anyone other than their parents/carers. Their passwords should not be given out to friends.

13 REASONS WHY: This is a Netflix programme rated 18, adapted from the book that discusses many serious issues, including suicide, depression and self-harm. We have heard that some of our young people appear to be watching this programme and we wanted to make you aware that several Mental Health charities have expressed their concerns over the programme – the content of which is, in places, quite graphic. Following many public concerns Netflix have announced that they will add an on screen warning to the programme.