Cyber Sense

Dear SLT,

Ofsted have revised their inspection framework, making significant changes in the way they consider and inspect Online Safety. An emphasis shift and increased focus on safeguarding, including 'online safety' and 'online bullying', promotes the role of educating young people *and staff* alongside the use of technological filters and measures. This fundamental change reflects an increasing number of issues associated with; technology, user access to content, electronic contact with others and behavioural issues.

Many of the things you already do in school help young people become positive, happy members of society. To further help you meet this national priority, we are delighted to offer you a new **Ariel Trust** resource, 'CyberSense'. 'CyberSense' will help you in further improving young peoples' self-confidence, self-awareness and understanding of how to be a successful learner.

'CyberSense' is a two-part, classroom based and whole school, programme, designed to provide young people with the skills to recognise, respond to and report online bullying, whilst promoting safe use of social media and the internet. CyberSense facilitates the development of effective strategies that enable young people to resist the peer pressure to make unhealthy or unsafe choices. It promotes the development of conflict resolving skills, increased knowledge and the ability to intervene and ask for help. The programme focuses on preventing *and reducing* unwanted or inappropriate behaviour associated with technology.

The 'CyberSense' programme uses a collaborative learning approach, providing an opportunity for young people to explore important topics such as; self-esteem, peer pressure and the impact of gaming. It helps them to use the knowledge and understanding gained to make better informed choices in the future. The programme is an effective tool that allows young people to gain an understanding of online safety, whilst also supporting academic attainment.

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'CyberSense' includes a wide range of spoken language, listening and creative writing activities that are capable of being assessed within English lessons and are mapped to the curriculum. These activities include; debating, role play, and storyboard creation. All exercises can be tailored to suit the needs of individual groups. The software has a module-based format, which can also be implemented within any PSHCE curriculum.

CyberSense has been well received and has been used in over 100 Primary Schools in Merseyside, Derbyshire and Greater Manchester in the last year as part of the Big Lottery 'Realising Ambition' project.

Ofsted's definition of safeguarding now includes particular issues affecting young people, including; bullying, cyberbullying and prejudice based bullying. We all have a responsibility to safeguard and protect children and must address e-Safety explicitly with both children and staff. CyberSense is designed to support staff, helping them ensure that young people are properly equipped to stay safe online.

Research - and Ofsted's own PSHCE survey - show that the knowledge, skills, qualities and attitudes that students develop through access to good-quality educational resources can help to:

- Safeguard them

- Enhance their SMSC development

- Enhance their achievement in all areas of school life and beyond

We are confident that 'CyberSense' is an invaluable resource in making sure your safeguarding arrangements meet all statutory and other government requirements, whilst directly addressing the latest Ofsted expectations.

Yours sincerely,

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