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Dear Parent / Carers,

There have recently been several incidents where racist and sexist language has been used by pupils both in school and on the school transport. We have investigated where this language has originated and we believe that it has been heard on games that are PEGI rated 18, such as Grand Theft Auto.

Some of our children as young as 9 are accessing games that are not appropriate for their age and are then copying the language and using it. This then has a knock on effect on other pupils who hear the words and repeat them, with no knowledge of the meaning or the impact of saying them.

As a school we will address the language being used and challenge what is being said to ensure that our pupils understand the severity behind using certain words. We teach our pupils about diversity through PSHE lessons and with the recent reports around sexual violence and peer on peer abuse, we are very mindful that our pupils learn respectful ways to speak to, and treat each other and the staff.

Likewise, we teach online safety in our Computing lessons and this is repeated regularly to ensure our pupils understand the risks of the modern technological world.

Please could I ask that parents and carers support us with this work by monitoring what games your children are accessing and checking that they are age appropriate. As a mother of teenagers, I appreciate that it is not always easy to do this, especially when their friends are playing them, however it is vital that our pupils are safeguarded from the violence that they see and hear on these games and from the potential of grooming online.

I send out an online safety newsletter every month and these can also be found on the school website. They are really useful in guiding parents towards safe games and can flag up the concerns around different apps and websites. If you do have any concerns about online safety, gaming and the internet please feel free to contact me at school to discuss them.

Yours sincerely

Sam Hayward
Deputy Headteacher



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