



**HAGLEY CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL**  
SEMPER FIDELIS

11 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As part of our commitment to online safeguarding and post pandemic recovery we are supporting a national campaign around online safety led by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). Their remit is to stop child sexual abuse imagery online and they have launched a national campaign which focuses on 'self-generated sexual imagery'. In layman's terms, this means a child taking nude or sexually explicit images or videos and posting them online. The IWF have found that many young people have been coerced or groomed into doing this; In extreme cases they are being encouraged to get younger siblings involved. The IWF also suggested that girls between the ages of 11 – 13 were the most vulnerable. In 2020, they confirmed 68,000 cases of such imagery, a 77% rise on the year before, which is clearly a response to the sustained periods of lockdown and confinement to the house.

Despite the cessation of lockdown, the online lives of our young people will adapt and continue. At Hagley we are taking a proactive approach and are supporting this campaign by hosting a series of targeted workshops for our girls, highlighting potential online threats and empowering them to manage this confidently. These will take place in year group bubbles between now and the end of this academic year. This preventative work will then become a regular part of our safeguarding strategy.

As parents and carers, the IWF have advised the following strategy summarised through the acronym 'T.A.L.K':

- Talk to your child about online sexual abuse. Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns.
- Agree ground rules about the way you use technology as a family.
- Learn about the platforms and apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.
- Know how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.

Please visit <https://talk.iwf.org.uk/> for further information about how you can support your child to have a healthy and happy life online.

Yours sincerely

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DSL/Assistant Principal Inclusion

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