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Dear Parents/Carers

### **Safeguarding for Mary Elliot School**

Mary Elliot School takes Safeguarding and the welfare of our students very seriously. Staff have recently received lots of training to enable them to properly safeguard Students and themselves. We would like to share with you some safeguarding information as detailed below:

#### **Social Media and Apps**

There are many apps available that are not suitable for our Students or children/teenagers in general and some of them are as follows:

Calculator App Lock - Calculator App Lock hides your most private photos and videos in plain sight - disguised as a humble calculator.

Omegle - The service is a free online chat website that "promotes chatting anonymously to strangers".

Yubo - Users are able to swipe other users they are interested in and swap selfies with each other, with the app getting criticised due to concerns it could be utilised to trade naked pictures

Ask FM - launched in 2010 this has been linked to the most severe forms of cyberbullying as it allows users to ask and answer questions anonymously

Wishbone - Another controversial app, as this allows users to compare whatever items they want to - leading to children competing against each other by rating themselves on a scale.

Instagram - Instagram allows users to use more than once account - meaning children normally have an account for family, and an account for friends.

Snapchat - this app allows users to send pictures that disappear within seconds, unless a screenshot is taken.

## **Visitors to School**

A Safeguarding leaflet is available as you sign in at Reception, but I would particularly like to note that ALL mobile phones should be out of sight during your visit to school. This rule applies to parents, carers and visiting professionals. We take safeguarding very seriously and this will be enforced as part of our Safeguarding Policy.

## **Reception – Dropping off and collection of Students**

I would like to thank parents and carers for their support so far. I understand this transition has been difficult, but again we are ensuring that the safety and wellbeing of our Students remains our absolute priority. If there are any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Clive Padgett – Headteacher**

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**Sharon Fogarty – Interim DSL**

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