



**St Cuthbert's
Catholic High School**
Live life in all its fullness

Berrys Lane
Sutton, St. Helens
WA9 3HE

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Tel: 01744 678123
Email: hello@stcuthberts.com

Headteacher:
Mrs Catherine Twist B. Ed
Fax No: 01744 678127

Dear parent/carer

During the past year home learning has made a significant contribution to enabling our students to continue to learn and progress. Through the use of our website and Google Classroom for **Lockdown Learning**, it has been possible to create virtual classes by drawing information from schools' Management Information Systems, enabling a single point of access for all lessons and resources and allowing teachers to host both live and pre-recorded lessons.

However, with more time spent on digital devices throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, online risks and issues associated with increased screen time gradually became heightened. At St Cuthbert's Catholic High School, we believe that promoting online safety plays a critical role in protecting our students online.

I am writing to you today – [Safer Internet Day 2021](#) - as I believe it is important for us to work in partnership with you as a parent, to keep students safe online. Our online safety measures enable us to provide an environment for all our students to thrive, grow and learn, whilst staying safe online. We put these measures in place through policies and security provisions which safeguard students against unsuitable content and contact, and ensure they maintain appropriate conduct.

These policies include our **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Online Safety Policy, Acceptable Use Agreement** and parent, staff and student codes of conduct, which outline the proper use of technology for both students and staff. If any incidents breaching these policies occur, they are logged and managed in accordance with the relevant policy.

We have a number of procedures in place to ensure children cannot access unsuitable websites when using school technology, including software which blocks all websites with adult, violent or age-inappropriate content. Social media sites are also blocked, unless they are school pages used within lessons and under supervision. Online safety is taught to all students during IT lessons and staff are required to undertake online safety training to update their knowledge.

More recently, we have teamed up with [National Online Safety](#) to achieve the '**Safe Remote Education**' accreditation but we can only do this with help and support of the whole school community. Our staff and governors are well underway with their training to keep our children safe online.

There are many ways you can support us in achieving the accreditation. Downloading the National Online Safety app to your smartphone (<https://info.nationalonlinesafety.com/mobile-app>) or following this link <http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/st-cuthbert-s-catholic-high-school> will give you unique access to parent guides on the latest apps, games and online dangers as well as the Online Safety





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Course for Parents and Carers. I know many of you will be busy juggling the demands of home, work and lockdown but completing these short courses will help minimise the risks associated with children being online and increase online safety in your home.

Safer Internet Day 2021 will be celebrated globally with the slogan: Together for a better internet. The internet is now an integral part of our lives. Online safety is extremely important in making sure both adults and children feel safe, secure and confident when accessing and engaging with content online.

I do hope you will be able to support us in protecting our children from online harms and risks which may jeopardise their personal information, lead to unsafe communications or even effect their mental health and wellbeing.

If you would like to discuss the matter of online safety in greater depth, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr McAuley, at safeguarding@stcuthberts.com or on 01744 678123.

You can find a copy of our **Online Safety Policy** and our **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy** at www.stcuthberts.com/policies.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to celebrating our accreditation with you very soon.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs C Twist
Headteacher**

