

## A brief guide to keeping your child safe online.

**Welcome back and I hope you've all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.**

Each term I would like to write and offer some help and advice in keeping your child safe whilst online. In this brief guide I will discuss Exploitation through hate speech. What it means, the signs and how you can support in preventing it from continuing.

## **What is Exploitation?**

Exploitation can be defined as being taken advantage of, exploited in a way that suits the means of the person doing the exploiting. There are many ways in which people have been exploited both in the real world and online and the majority of the time the person being exploited will not realise that they are being so until it is too late. It could be through an ideology that young people buy into, through receiving gifts, status and affection to an exchange of sexual activities.



Recently a name has appeared many times across various social media platforms and through the news, Andrew Tate. He is an influencer preying on individuals insecurities and promoting hate speech and his name has been viewed or clicked on 13 billion times and counting. He has been banned across many platforms but this hasn't prevented some from sharing and resharing his views. According to Ofcom two thirds of children who access social media see harmful content online but only 16 percent report it.

We can't deny the fact that more and more children are growing up in a digital world, using social media applications that we may not even be aware exist. Many of peoples views and opinions can come from reading what they see online and it is our duty of care to help guide each and every young person through the pitfalls of the online world.



**Don't blame the victims.** It is very easy to place blame on a young person for spouting hate speech and following someone else's ideology. It is much more helpful to try and understand why they have those views and then discuss through the views with them explaining why they are hurtful and wrong. What we can be certain of is that once Andrew Tate has been arrested and imprisoned, there will be others that will continue the hate speech online and exploit the views of young people for their own gain. Above all stay safe and if you require any further support or advice to contact a member of the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead Team.

Mr R Elson  
Techie Tips!