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Independent Chair – NYSCB

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Room SB114  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL7 8AE

Your Ref: Esafety0217

Our Ref: Esafety0217

Date 10/02/2017

Dear Headteacher,

As you are aware the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board has been active in promoting e safety. Recently it has been brought to our attention that there has been e-safety incidents involving primary age children from North Yorkshire and neighbouring authorities. Whilst incidents did not take place during school time we would like to bring this matter to your attention so you can raise awareness with your staff and parents.

The incidents have highlighted a number of safeguarding issues raised recently about apps on mobile devices including Live.ly, ooVoo, and music.ly amongst others. These apps are supposed to only be able to access contacts on the user's phones, but it appears that unknown individuals are able to join group chats. Therefore, these apps are not safe for children to use as there is a significant risk of inappropriate contact by unknown individuals.

In light of the issue above, schools may be contacted by concerned parents / carers. Our advice for schools is for them to advise parents to ensure that their children do not have access to such apps on their phone and to check that all appropriate privacy settings are switched on, to make sure that children are protected when using any internet site. If a child experiences or expresses concerns about online activity, it must be reported to the police using 101 and/or <https://ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/>. Wherever possible, a screen shot or a mobile phone picture of the concern should be taken for reporting purposes.

In addition you will also find details about e-safety on our website with useful guides for parents and carers <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/parents-carers/e-safety-for-parents> as well as a link to Key Stage appropriate resources <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/safeguarding-themes>

I hope you find this information helpful in enabling you to safeguard the children of our County

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "N. P. Frost".

Professor Nick Frost  
Independent Chair of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board.