



Mrs L Woodroof BSc (Hons), NPQH Headteacher Mr A Minchin Interim Chief Executive Officer Arethusa Road Rochester Kent ME1 2UR Tel: (01634) 401401

E-mail: office@warrenwood.medway.sch.uk Website: www.sflt.org.uk/warrenwood

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Dear Parents and Carers

Filtering and Monitoring

Each September, the DFE release a document called 'Keeping Children Safe in Education.' This document is statutory guidance that schools and colleges in England must have regard to when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It is essential that everybody working in a school or college understands their safeguarding responsibilities.

This year this has included a big focus on online safety and schools have had to produce a 'Filtering and Monitoring Policy.' It states that schools must 'ensure appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place. Children should not be able to access harmful or inappropriate material from the school or college's IT system' however, schools will need to be careful that over blocking does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.'

Several measures have been put in place at Warren Wood to ensure that we follow government guidelines. We are using a program called Impero to monitor the children's online activity. This system flags to key members of staff any keystrokes that show the children are searching for inappropriate materials. This includes material relating to bullying, radicalisation, sexualised content, or anything deemed age inappropriate.

To ensure that this can be done effectively, all children now have their own logins for the school computer system. It has been made clear to the children the importance of only using their own login and ensuring they log out correctly each time they use the computer. We would be very grateful if you could reinforce at home any online safety messages we share with the children in school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Woodroof Headteacher

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