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3 April 2019

Malicious Communications Act 1988

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have been asked by Banet Local Authority to share the information below with you.

Over the last couple of months there have been reports from schools and the police of young people sharing inappropriate images, videos and messages via social media, the most prevalent of which being WhatsApp groups, the Christchurch streaming being the most recent to create a large spike in activity.

Viewing, downloading or disseminating extremist material within the UK may constitute an offence under Terrorism legislation, this includes sharing videos of violence such as the New Zealand attack a short while ago.

Sending by means of the Internet a message or other matter that is grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character; or sending a false message by means of or persistently making use of the Internet for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety is guilty of an offence liable, on conviction, to imprisonment. This wording is important because an offence is committed as soon as the message has been sent: there is no need to prove any intent or purpose.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Banks
Headteacher



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