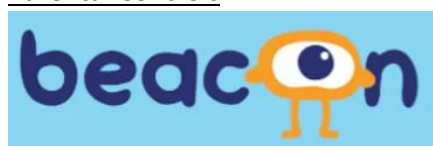Dear families,

We received a great deal of correspondence with many ideas/thoughts/questions from people after sending home our information about social media earlier in the week. To assist, we contacted representatives from the esafety section within the Directorate. They have provided us with the following information:

Parental Controls

The Directorate strongly recommends families download the Beacon app. The Beacon app is an informative first step. You can navigate the topics easily or use the search function. You can set filters like your children's ages.

Within this app you can search for '*parental controls'* and many articles related to the search, including pages with step-by-step instructions on adding parental controls to Apple, Android, and Microsoft devices including phones, iPads, desktops, laptops, and gaming devices such as Xbox, Nintendo and PlayStation will appear. There are also instructions on using parental controls on home Wi-Fi networks, streaming services, and specific apps such as Fortnite, Minecraft, YouTube and many others. There is further advice about third-party parental control software.

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner (OeSC) https://www.esafety.gov.au/ has a comprehensive array of resources for parents and children as well. Most of the information on the Beacon app is sourced in partnership from OeSC so you may find some repeated advice. A few places to start on the eSafety commissioner website for Parental Controls are:

- Taming the technology – this page provides advice about the different methods of parental controls and also has a link to a page called Communications Alliance which provides accreditation to rigorously tested third-party filtering products.
- Hard to have conversations
- eSafety Guide - Learn about the latest games, apps and social media, including how to protect your information and report inappropriate content.

There are also resources for parents and carers from the AFP program ThinkUKnow. ThinkUKnow Australia is an evidence-based education program led by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), delivered nationally in partnership with police and industry partners to prevent online child sexual exploitation. They incorporate up-to-date research, real case studies and examples from reports made to the AFP-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation. The program is pro-technology and addresses topics including self-generated online child sexual exploitation material, online grooming, image-based abuse, sexual extortion, and importantly encourages help seeking behaviour.

Digital citizenship
Because we know that no parental control tool is 100% effective, it is essential that families help their child develop good online safety habits.

Again, the Beacon app has so much information and advice on digital citizenship and how to support positive, safe and respectful online behaviours across the family. Parents can subscribe to alerts/notifications when new information becomes available, such as an issue with Roblox.

Some pages from the OeSC that are useful as well:
- <u>Skills and advice</u> – tips for managing online challenges, including family tech agreements, online safety basics, advice for age access to devices and platforms, and much more.
- <u>Parent resources</u> – videos, books, information sheets, audio files, family activities and more.

<u>Parent Webinars</u>
The OeSC also offers regular parent webinars that are designed to parents and carers the knowledge, skills and tools to support their children to have safe online experiences. The 2022 webinars include a broad range of topics that will be delivered by their expert education and training team. You can view their schedule and register <u>here</u>.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have further questions.

Kate Flynn
Principal