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Unsworth Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs C Reynolds BA (HONs)

1st December 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

Use of photography at school events

The majority of occasions when people take photographs of children are valid and do not provide any cause for concern. As a school we take safeguarding very seriously and always seek parental permission to take photographs for display or for our website. We are then able to control the use of photography if a parent or carer requests that their child is not photographed or put on the website.

Unfortunately, there are occasions when photographing children can be a cause for concern. This might involve the collection and passing of images which may be misused; the identification of individual children for grooming or the identification of children in vulnerable circumstances.

In recent times we have had instances of parents and pupils posting photographs or short clips of school-based activities online through social media sites such as Facebook or YouTube. We are not able to control this in order to protect any vulnerable children who may be in our school community.

With immediate effect, parents and carers will not be allowed to take photographs or videos at our events. We realise that some parents and carers might be disappointed with this decision but safeguarding overrides all other views on an issue such as this.

In order for parents to have a keepsake of this year's nativity and pantomime we will be taking photographs of the cast and videoing the performances. In this way we are able to control any issues around the identification of children in vulnerable circumstances. There will be a cost involved in purchasing these but we will not be seeking to make high profits for these items.

We do hope that you are able to understand the reasons for our decision in this case and we ask that you come to our events and sit back and enjoy the show rather than watch it through a mobile phone or video camera.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. C. Reynolds

Heateacher (and Designated Teacher for Safeguarding)



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