MGL

FAITH PRIMARY ACADEMY

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

UNDERSTANDING INTERNET LANGUAGE AND THE LATEST ONLINE TRENDS

ISSUE 17

ONLINE FADS - SHOULD I BE WORRIED?

We've probably all been hearing "Six Seven" on repeat recently but it's just the latest in a long line of online "fads" that have started coming up in everyday conversation.

Online slang moves fast and there's always a new phrase or joke that suddenly becomes the thing everyone is saying.

The good news is "Six Seven" it isn't offensive or harmful. It's linked to a song and a viral basketball video. These trends aren't unsafe — they're just confusing (especially if you're not not sure what they mean).

That being said, it's still worth checking in with your child about the new words and phrases they're using. Children often repeat things because they're popular, not because they understand them. A quick and curious conversation can help you stay in the loop and also gives your child a chance to think about what they're saying.

INTERNET LANGUAGE

Like "Six Seven", there are some other phrases that feel almost like code that children use when speaking. Some common ones include:

- **Sigma -** This is often used online to describe someone "cool". In some spaces it's linked to negative attitudes about gender, so it's worth asking how your child is using it.
- **Skibidi -** A made-up word from viral videos/animations. Children mostly use it just to be silly and it doesn't usually have a deep meaning.
- **Rizz -** Short for charisma, usually meaning charming or good.

While many of these words aren't offensive, if they start being used to insult someone, exclude others, or encourage negative behaviour, that's when to step in.

"TEACH ME" CHALLENGE

Ask your child to teach about you the new phrases they're using:

- What does it mean?
- Where did it come from?
- When do people use it?
- Who started it?

This works well because it keeps things light, but also helps children realise that they don't always know the meaning behind what they're repeating.

HOW CAN I KEEP UP?

- New phrases and fads come up all the time online. Keeping up with what your child is parroting can be a chore.
- Asking your child about what they are saying is one way to find out, but if you want to understand a phrase quickly, try searching it online and stick to trusted online safety websites for meanings.