



13<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may be aware of a news story circulating yesterday regarding a corrupted URL link at the back of a series of children's story books. The URL was once used to host more information about the main characters in the series, undercover spy dogs. It is our understanding that the publishers (Puffin Books) are working with library services and distributors to send a message to those that have purchased the book. Further information can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn7631z8343o>

Whilst it is worrying, our view is that the main concern would be for children who have access to the books through an e-reader or other electronic device as they would potentially then be able to click through to the link. Printed versions would require a child to type the URL into an internet enabled device.

As a result we would suggest the following:

#### Parents should:

- Immediately prevent children from accessing the website in question
- Remove any Spy Dog, Spy Cat, or Spy Pups books containing the QR code from home bookshelves / e-readers temporarily in order to take steps to remove reference to the corrupted website
- Inform their children not to visit the linked website as it contains inappropriate content
- Follow any guidance or updates from the publisher Puffin Books regarding the situation
- Engage in conversations with their children about the importance of safe internet use and reporting if they accidentally visit unsuitable sites
- Ensure they actively monitor and supervise their children's online activity

Parents/Carers can also be signposted to the following websites to support them in keeping their children safe online and talking to their children about online safety:



# Runnymede St Edward's Catholic Primary School

*Inspire, challenge and support through faith*

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www.runnymedestowards.co.uk  
0151 281 2300

<https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/esafety-leaflets-resources/>

If you require any help or support please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Many thanks,

Miss Peaston

