



20 December 2019

Dear Parents

Social Media Concerns

We have increasing concerns regarding the misuse of social networking sites amongst some of our students, most recently on sites such as WhatsApp.

As a school, we are concerned that our students interact with each other appropriately and with respect, both inside and outside of school hours. We take all reports of internet misuse seriously and investigate them.

We will take action if our pupils/students are found to have used social media sites to bully other students.

Our aims are to prevent misuse and put a stop to online bullying.

Pupils are asked to stop and think before they post or share something on the internet – about the potential impact for others and for themselves of what they might write in haste or on the spur of the moment.

Children and young people who would not be cruel face-to-face, and who do not see the consequences of their actions, may feel justified saying hurtful things online.

We would like you to be aware of the following guidelines and take action, where necessary:

- Seriously consider telling your child they are not allowed to use certain social networking sites.
- Have a conversation with your child about appropriate use, including how the anonymous or instantaneous nature of online communication can change the way people behave.
- If you choose to allow your child to use social media, please show them how to use the privacy tab in their settings to block anonymous posts, so that all comments are linked to the names of account holders. Users can also create a blacklist to block comments and posts from certain users.
- Please ensure that, where possible, your child adjusts privacy settings so that posts on social networking sites are only seen by those they choose.
- Please supervise your child's activities online, especially on social networking sites.
- If your child experiences or witnesses online bullying, tell them not to respond. The best option is to take a print out or screen shot of the offending post and then delete the "app" and the account.
- Please report incidents of online bullying to us or encourage your child to do so. Reports can be made to any member of staff in school.

Please [click here](#) and take time to read this important information.

Best wishes

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