



Dear Parents / Carers,

4TH July 2019

Re: concerning use of social media

It has been brought to our attention, by parents and children in year 6, that several pupils in year 6 **are using the social media apps Snap Chat and Instagram to communicate extremely concerning images and messages.**

Whilst we have spoken directly to the parents of all pupils involved in this incident we feel it is our responsibility to bring these concerns to the attention of all year 6 parents; we would like to urge ALL year 6 parents to speak to their children about their use of social media.

Children want to interact and make friends through social media. As a parent, it is important that you allow them to do so in a safe way, which means monitoring your child's internet use. Please play an active role in monitoring any social media account your child has access to and ensure you understand the ins and outs of the platform they use. The following website has a vast amount of information which can support you to keep your child safe online <https://www.internetmatters.org>. This website includes guides to many social media Apps and platforms. As well as monitoring usage, it is also really helpful to set boundaries and consequences upfront so children know how to conduct themselves on social media. One boundary you may wish to consider is in relation to children accessing their devices late at night - this is often when issues arise.

Through lessons provided at school, assemblies, guest speakers, and PSHE lessons, we do our best to provide our children with the awareness and knowledge they need in order to recognise and avoid dangerous, destructive, or unlawful behaviour and to respond appropriately. However, it is only through a collaborative effort between parents and teachers that we will succeed in creating responsible and safe cyber citizens.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact myself, a member of the senior leadership team or your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Ashleigh Dunn Headteacher

