



Monday 21st March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Safe use of Social Media

I am writing to you about a growing problem that we are experiencing regarding the misuse of social media by some students. This is a problem in some year groups but particularly in years 5 and 6 and often leads to behaviour problems and social and emotional distress for those children involved.

In the last few years, the growth in the use of social media sites has been huge: TikTok, Snap Chat, Instagram, Facebook, online gaming, WhatsApp and YouTube being the most popular. Although these sites are very worthwhile if used appropriately, they can cause all sorts of problems when they are used for inappropriate comments and bullying. This can lead to arguments and aggressive behaviour as well as mental health implications and self-esteem issues for victims; this will not be tolerated in the school. It is crucial that we work with you, the parents and carers of our young people, to ensure that all children are safe on-line and use these forms of communication in a civilised and acceptable way.

A large number of the issues that we have dealt with already this year have started with incidents of cyberbullying through WhatsApp and TikTok especially. We will continue to deal with behaviour issues that can result and make sure that the appropriate sanctions for these kinds of behaviour are given in school.

We also need you as parents and carers to monitor your children's activities on social media and other on-line sites to ensure they are keeping themselves safe. If you are not sure how to do this, please let us know: we can help.

If you have any questions about this, then please do contact a member of the year five or six team. We are taking a strong stance on this and will not accept bullying of any form. We hope that we can count on your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Kelleher
UKS2 phase leader

BJS FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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