



Stockwell Primary School and Children's Centre

Achieving excellence together

Wednesday 6th December, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I need to bring to your attention some issues that the school is having with the children's use of social media out of school hours.

We have been made aware that a small number of children have been sending inappropriate messages to each other online. Although this is not happening during school hours, or on the school site, it is causing distress and anxiety among the pupils. We cannot regulate the online access that pupils have outside school, but, if we are made aware of such issues, we have a duty of care to inform the parents of the children involved.

There is clear guidance on the appropriate age ranges for certain online apps and I would like to draw your attention to these below.

- WhatsApp announced a change to their terms and conditions for users based in Europe. **Users need to be 16 to use WhatsApp;**
- Nearly all other social media services require **users to be at least 13 years of age** to access and use their services. This includes Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram and Tik Tok;
- Whilst there is no age restriction for watching videos on YouTube, **users need to be 13 or older to have their own YouTube account** (enabling them to subscribe to other channels, like videos, post comments, share their own content and flag inappropriate content).

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 that they use these forms of communication in a civilised and acceptable way.

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.

The children will undertake some additional lessons on e-safety, relationships and staying safe between now and the end of term to address the issues that we have identified.

We hope that we can count on your support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Z. McIntosh
Acting Head of School

BJS FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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