

Social Media – Year 5 and 6

Dear Parent and Carers,

I am writing to you to clarify elements on the misuse of social media and chat groups. Recently, we have been made aware, by both children and parents, of several incidents of the misuse of social media, sometimes by our children and other times where they themselves have been the victims of misuse.

I wanted to assure you that if any aspect of ICT is misused in our school or on our equipment, or if there is any misuse on the system either in or out of normal school hours, then, due to the sophisticated filters in operation, we **will** identify and address this misuse. Fortunately, this type of misuse is incredibly rare and this is helped by the fact that children are not able to access any social media sites on our network.

Indeed, the majority of inappropriate internet use is done from home or on children's mobile devices during evenings, weekends and holidays.

Please note: Staff have no jurisdiction to deal with this and cannot investigate it.

It should be recognised that in many cases, a child may put themselves at considerable risk due to the misuse of social media accidentally. E.g. giving personal details, publishing photographs, etc. to a 'friend' who then distributes this information more widely. They need to be fully aware of this risk. The responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media, or indeed the internet in general, must lie with parents and carers. We strongly encourage you to discuss issues around this with your child and I have attached a document about this. and placed the document containing advice intended to support you on our website.

If your child is the victim of inappropriate use, then we strongly recommend that you, as a parent/carer, report the matter to both the website developer and to the police by calling 101. As stated earlier, unless an issue manifests itself during the normal school day, our staff are not able to address this.

However, to support you and your child, we will:

- Continue, through PSHE and assemblies, to educate students of the dangers of inappropriate use of the internet

- Refer anything that we believe could be defined as, or could potentially lead to, a Child Protection issue to the appropriate external agencies
- Continue to support parents with advice on how to tackle inappropriate use either by their own child or others

I hope that you find this document and website links on our website useful and by working together, as outlined in this letter, I trust that we can keep all our children safe and well.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Kate Arnold
Head of School