



12<sup>th</sup> October 2018

## The Challenge of Social Media in Schools

Dear Parents and Carers

Social media has a widespread impact on the way in which we communicate and express our thoughts and opinions, there are clearly many benefits for us as individuals and communities.

Unfortunately we are experiencing an increasing number of situations where social media has been the vehicle for unkind and inappropriate behaviour by our pupils.

There have been a growing number of situations where schools have had to deal with pupils using social media and live gaming to be unkind to others. What starts as fun too often ends in upset and distress and has a negative impact on learning and enjoyment at school. Staff in school have spent a disproportionate amount of time resolving issues that have resulted from unmonitored misuse of social media outside of the school day. This is particularly worrying at primary school level where no child is old enough to meet the age guidelines for social media accounts or to play many of the live games we hear our pupils talking about.

It is our duty to enable our children to be positive role models in the digital world we now live in and the partnership between home and school is key. We teach the children how to stay safe online and work with many agencies to support this throughout the year with workshops and lessons.

We are asking you as parents and carers to make sure that you;

- ✓ Ask them to show you which social media apps they use and what they like about them. Talk about how they use them and what makes them so engaging.
- ✓ Explain how you can use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see posts & images.
- ✓ Check if any of their apps have 'geo-location' enabled, sharing their location unintentionally.
- ✓ Show them how to report offensive comments or block people who upset them.
- ✓ Check 'tagging' settings so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, your child's identity is not revealed. Also, get people's consent before sharing photos.
- ✓ Encourage your child to come and talk to you if they see anything that upsets them.
- ✓ Explain that you will monitor their use and check their content from time to time.

Thank you for your support with this issue,

Yours sincerely

Miss E Hart  
Head Teacher