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We would like to remind parents/carers of their responsibilities regarding their child's use of social media.

We have recently again had reports from parents that pupils from differing year groups have been engaging in inappropriate ways with each other on social media *out of school hours*. This not only leads to upset out of school but the upset also spills into school time and effects learning and well-being.

Responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media, or indeed the internet in general, must lie with parents/carers out of school hours. School will, of course, support you in this through various means such as PSHCE sessions and discussing Internet safety issues as well as being on hand to offer advice and support to pupils in school as necessary. We will of course listen to and support any child who arrives into school, whose well-being has been upset and affected by an incident.

- The minimum age for use of WhatsApp is **16 years old**.
- The minimum age for all other social media services is **13 years of age**. This includes Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok, Musical.ly and Skype.
- 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).

We strongly encourage you to talk with your child regularly about their social media use and monitor it regularly.

Please go onto our website where you can find very useful information to support you as parents/carers in managing internet safety with your child. (Look under Key Information - Internet Safety). Alternatively, you may find these links useful:

<https://youtu.be/zLSakcEJbak>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/is-my-child-ready-for-social-media/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids/>

We cannot prevent our children living in this modern, technological-driven world, therefore we need to teach our children how to safely navigate their way through it.

Kind regards,

Jayne Geran  
Deputy Headteacher



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