

Dear Parents

### Safe and Appropriate Use of Social Media

In light of the events of the last year it is to be expected that children will have become more dependent on different forms of digital communication to keep in touch with friends and family. This means that it is more critical than ever that they are supported in doing so safely and appropriately. This includes how they might be using it to produce and share content.

With this in mind (and further to the guidance shared at the start of the year), I ask that you continue to monitor your child's use of any form of social media and that you reinforce the messages shared in school, including:

- All of the most popular social media apps have minimum age requirements and that underage use of such platforms represents a breach of the providers' Terms of Use.
- It is a criminal offence to share offensive or otherwise inappropriate content with someone else online (especially serious if that person has not consented e.g. as part of a group chat)
- You must never film, photograph or share video/images of other students or staff without consent
- You must never access or attempt to use another person's account (It is a criminal offence to impersonate someone else online and/or set up an account in someone else's name)
- You must never use social media to upset, insult or intimidate (cyberbullying)
- You must not follow or send 'friend requests' to members of staff at school

Any failure to abide by the expectations above risks undermining the strong sense of community and mutual respect we have developed as a school and will not be tolerated. Additionally, whilst it is perhaps inevitable that group chats will be formed, I would strongly discourage the use of these; they have become far and away the most significant cause for concern in terms of pupils' online interactions of late and extend beyond the school's reach which means that misuse can potentially only be resolved by referral to the police.

Thank you in advance for your support in reinforcing these messages with your child at home. If you do have any concerns about your child's use of social media, please get in touch with our pastoral support team. Information about safe use of social media and age restrictions can be accessed [here](#).

Yours faithfully



**Mr Andrew Pettit**  
Head of School