



Dear Parents/Carers,

Social Media

It has been brought to my attention that some parents/carers have been using social media to make comments about school or members of staff and that other parents/carers are then posting comments based on what has been said. This is not acceptable behaviour and is very upsetting for my staff, myself and my Governors as well as other parents/carers who see the postings.

So can I remind everybody, that we do not want school issues discussed on any social media site; social media is not the platform for parental complaints/comments about school/members of staff. It is expected that parents and carers will go through the correct procedures and discuss things with the appropriate member of staff; in the first instance this is speaking to your child's teaching team.

Christmas

As Christmas is getting closer, children and young people all over the country will be writing lists to Santa or giving hints about what they would like under the tree. Technology is now a very popular item on many children's lists with tablets, smartphones, game consoles and smart watches likely to be asked for this year. All of these devices are fun and engage children in a stimulating interactive environment. Used appropriately, they can bring enormous benefits to learning but used inappropriately they can be a risk to children. All adults, in school and at home, have a responsibility to support children to make the right choices when online and this is an appropriate time to point out some simple measures that can be applied at home.

1. Consider locating your computer or mobile devices in a family area where children's online activity can be monitored or supervised.
2. Talk to your child and ask them to show or even teach you how they use the internet and learn about websites or tools they like to use and why.
3. Make sure your child knows it's important that they tell an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.
4. Remind children that they should use the same caution online as they would in the real world. Tell them they should never go to meet someone they have only spoken to online.
5. Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to block unsuitable content or contact.
6. Familiarise yourself with the age limits of social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, ooVoo, Instagram etc. There's an age limit in place for a reason, if you decide to allow your children on to these sites make sure you know how they can protect themselves while using these sites – for example knowing how to set appropriate privacy settings.

Websites to visit for more information

www.thinkuknow.co.uk – Visit the 'Parent/ Carer' section and use the 'Click CEOP' button to seek advice and report online abuse.

www.childnet.com – Visit the 'Know It All' Section for an interactive guide about online safety.

www.getsafeonline.org – Free up to date Security advice including using complex passwords, privacy settings, safe searching and social networking

Yours sincerely,

Miss Barker