



Expect Success

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Social Media use outside of school

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to advise you of some concerns we have regarding some of our children's use of social media outside of school. There are several groups of pupils in Years 5 and 6 using social media, such as Snapchat and WhatsApp, in an inappropriate way.

This has included both sharing unkind and threatening comments about others, which has led to a lot of upset amongst pupils and is not in line with our ethos or values. These social media apps are for children aged 13 years and over.

If you do allow your child to access social media, we ask for your vigilance. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support.

What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring your children's phones for the apps that are downloaded
- Enacting parental controls on phones, consoles and your WiFi router
- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine
- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices
- Talking with them openly about what is and is not acceptable online.

I am asking for your help in dealing with this, as this is happening outside of school. As a school, we are responding to this with additional support for children where we know this is happening, but there may also be issues we are unaware of.

[Here](#) is an online safety guide for parents from the NSPCC that you may find helpful. Thank you for your support in this very important matter.

Peter Howard
Headteacher

