



CHILDREN'S USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Dear Parent/Guardian

As part of the school's ongoing, proactive approach to Internet Safety and the safe use of digital technologies, we would like to take this opportunity to draw parents'/guardians' attention to the following:

An increasing number of pupils are indicating that they have access to, or regularly use, social media platforms such as SNAPCHAT, INSTAGRAM, TIK TOK, WHAT'S APP and FACEBOOK. We would like to remind parents/guardians that these platforms are **AGE RESTRICTED** and **it is the view of the school that they SHOULD NEVER be used by any primary school aged pupil.**

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to be **fully aware** of what their child is doing online. The school will not become involved in situations where pupils behave inappropriately on those platforms outside of school. Should instances of online bullying and abuse be reported to the school by concerned parents, we will advise those parents how to report the incident to the appropriate authorities. **It is up to you to keep your child safe from internet bullying while at home.**

We suggest that you use the following 5 measures to ensure that you can monitor your child's mobile phone/tablet to ensure their safety:

- (1) Agree that *you* can have access to their phone whenever you want; *check the phone regularly.*
- (2) Make sure you *know what apps they are using* (age appropriate) and *know all their passwords* for these apps.
- (3) Look at and *monitor the history of their calls, messages, contacts, web-site and pictures.*
- (4) No child needs their phone after 8:30pm or before 8:30am....and definitely ***NO CHILD NEEDS HIS/HER PHONE IN THE BEDROOM AT NIGHT.***
- (5) At all times *talk to your child regarding the dangers of social media.* Remember 1 out of 5 children talk to a stranger every day through social media.

This letter does not mean that we agree with your child having access to social media, as stated above we would advise against it but if you insist on letting your child use it, then this advice will hopefully help to keep them safe.

Yours Sincerely

Richard Woolsey
Principal

Check out:

www.ballyoranps.com/internet-safety

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents