



# Ballyoran Primary School

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*Principal: Mr R Woolsey, BEd (Hons), PQH*

*Vice Principal: Mrs R McGuire, BA (Hons), PGCE, PQH*

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Dear Parent / Guardian

## Concerning Online Behaviours

I am writing to make you aware of some concerns that have recently come to light regarding the alleged online behaviour of a number of pupils in Year 7. While this behaviour is allegedly happening out off school, I believe that we have a duty to inform you about this.

It has been brought to our attention that some Year 7 pupils have been engaging in activities online that are inappropriate and potentially harmful. These include:

- Using social media platforms for which they are below the minimum age requirement
- Editing or “doctoring” images of other pupils in ways that could cause embarrassment or distress
- Sending unkind messages
- Engaging in behaviour that may be considered cyberbullying
- Sending anonymous emails using alias email accounts

As a school, the safeguarding and wellbeing of our pupils remains our highest priority. The Year 7 teachers and I have spoken to the class about responsible online behaviour, digital citizenship, and how to keep themselves and others safe when using the internet and this message is reinforced regularly through PDMU lessons.

It is your responsibility to know what your child is doing online and I would ask for your support in reinforcing these messages at home. We encourage all parents to:

- Monitor your child’s online activity and the platforms they are using
- Discuss with your child what is and is not appropriate behaviour online
- Remind your child of the importance of kindness, respect, and accountability on digital spaces
- Ensure your child is not accessing apps or websites with age restrictions

Children are often unaware of the real-world consequences of online actions, and your involvement is crucial in helping them develop safe and respectful digital habits.

If you have any concerns about your child’s online activity or would like further advice on supporting safe internet use at home, please visit our website where there are numerous resources at <https://tinyurl.com/mr5495x9> or feel free to contact the school.

Please also see previous guidance on Children’s Use of Social Media issued by the school at <https://tinyurl.com/57c6smhz>

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Yours faithfully  
Richard Woolsey  
Principal