

16.06.2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has come to our attention that some children in key stage 2 are using social media inappropriately outside of school hours. This has included sharing abusive messages aimed at other children in the school, sharing videos that are not appropriate for their age and posting inappropriate content. Threatening and abusive content can result in police involvement.

This is obviously upsetting and concerning, however, my main concern is that some children are putting themselves at risk in the following ways:

- **posting from open accounts** where anyone can access their account & posts;
- **attaching the trust logo and academy name to social media accounts**
- **including their names in posts** - people who are unknown to the child now know their name (& where they go to school);
- they are **interacting with complete strangers** – they do not know if these people are who they say they are (there is an account with over 2000 followers).

Technology is obviously a great addition to our lives and provides an amazing resource. However, used inappropriately it can be harmful to your child's wellbeing and even place them in dangerous situations. At school, we talk to children a lot about staying safe online and e-safety is an integral part of our curriculum – this starts in Early Years and continues to Y6.

Almost all social media services require children to be 13 years old to access and use their services. This includes Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok. A great deal of content on TikTok is not suitable for primary school aged children. Below is the link to the Panorama programme 'Is TIKTok Safe?' which sets out the very real dangers of children using TikTok.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000p3p9>

Childnet and Net Aware also have excellent guides for parents/carers.

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/tiktok-an-updated-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Thank you for supporting us by being vigilant in ensuring our children are safe on line.

Mrs E Abbott

Principal