

15th March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to request your support with a very topical issue relating to young people:

Online Safety and Bullying

Over the last few weeks, we have had to address a spate of activity where students attending our school have chosen to use social media apps, outside of school hours, to send inappropriate and harmful messages, without thinking about the consequences and the impact on friendships and school life.

As the school Senior Leadership Team and staff community we take our responsibility to educating our students and young people on all aspects of social media usage very seriously. Weekly gatherings, PSHE lessons and focused age-specific events are consistently delivered to address all aspects of online safety and the appropriate use of social media. We also actively seek to involve multi-agencies and the Police to provide current and appropriate support and guidance. In addition, our Student Digital Leaders group work with our teachers and IT Team in order to share their views and knowledge as young people.

As we all know social media is 24/7, this requires both schools and parents/carers to be working in partnership to help educate young people. The websites listed below all contain excellent advice for parents/carers – please can I urge you to use them:

Websites for internet safety

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.childnet.com/young-people/secondar>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people/resources-11-19s>

Online bullying links:

<https://www.bullying.co.uk/cyberbullying/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/types-bullying/online-bullying/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/feelings-and-symptoms/bullying>

Ceop is for reporting bullying but also has links to other useful sites:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Yours faithfully



Jenn Plews
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