

January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Online Safety Concerns

It has come to our attention that many of our children are using different social media platforms such as Tik Tok/ You Tube/ WhatsApp and Snapchat. Recently, we have been made aware of incidents of inappropriate use of these platforms.

While some of these platforms are great for socialising and can provide a creative outlet for adults and older children, it can have harmful effects on younger children. Posting videos and pictures leaves children open to negative reactions and harsh comments.

In accordance with children's privacy laws, TikTok and such other sites provide age restrictions and most require children to be at least 13 years old to create an account. Despite these restrictions, it would appear that some children in school have their own accounts and are accessing these accounts unsupervised.

The online world is an essential part of our daily lives, and learning how to use technology safely is an essential skill for young people. Websites and apps such as TikTok, for example, are extremely popular but pose risks and it is important that schools and families work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers. Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an incredibly important part of safeguarding our students and your role as a parent or carer can make a significant difference.

As we continue to educate our students about the importance of being safe online, we would encourage you to monitor your child's internet use and to speak to your child about the correct use of social media, helping to ensure they make the right choices while online.

We have attached an online safety guide with more detailed information about how you can support your child to access the internet safely. You can also use your smartphone to scan the QR code at the bottom of this page to access a website that contains lots of practical information for families.

Please do not hesitate to contact the academy if you would like further support or have concerns regarding your child's online safety.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Laura Payton
Vice Principal

Alex Hill
Media Pioneer

