



19th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carers









Social Media – Year 6

It is with disappointment that I am writing regarding the use of social media.

Peartree Spring Primary School defines social media as 'any websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking'. Social networking sites and tools include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Snapchat, TikTok, LinkedIn, YouTube and Instagram. It also includes forums and discussion boards such as Google Groups, online encyclopaedias such as Wikipedia, and any other websites which allow individual users or organisations to use simple publishing tools. The school also includes review sites such as Trustpilot and Google Reviews in the scope of this policy.

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring they support the school by monitoring their children's use of social media and online messaging. Parents/carers must support their children in adhering to the school's Behaviour policy.

Examples of best practice in ensuring children and young people's safe and responsible behaviours when using social media and other online sites are as follows:

-  Pupil's use of social media must comply with the school's Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Policy, and E-safety Policy. Pupils must not access any social media that is for adults only or if the pupil does not meet the minimum age requirement
-  Anonymous sites must not be accessed as there is a high risk that inappropriate comments can be exchanged, causing distress or endangerment
-  Bad, including offensive, explicit, or abusive, language and inappropriate pictures must never be included in messages
-  All messages should be positive and not include anything that could be upsetting or defamatory towards others or the school
-  Pupils must take responsibility for keeping details of their accounts private, using full privacy settings and logging off properly and not allowing others to use their accounts
-  Pupils must report anything offensive or upsetting that they see online to the appropriate bodies, either by using the "report abuse" tabs (or equivalent) or by speaking to their parents/carers or a member of staff
-  It is a serious offence to use another person's account, or to create an account in another person's name without their consent
-  Pupils should not regard anything posted online as private and should remember that harassment, defamatory attitudes, racism, and homophobia are just some issues which could lead to prosecution

Unfortunately, a substantial **amount** of our dedicated learning time this week has been consumed by teachers dealing with several incidents involving the use of social media where the above policies have not been adhered to **and whilst they have been in the care of a parent.**

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Please can I remind you all to be vigilant of what your child's access to social media is and ensure that the policies are adhered to.

A copy of our social media policy can be found on our website.

If you have any questions or concerns, please address them directly to your class teacher using the email accounts.

Yours sincerely

D Cawley

Mr Cawley
Year 6 teacher and Year Group Leader.