



19th April 2024

Dear Parent/Carers

RE: Social Media – Year 5 and 6

It is with great disappointment that I am writing regarding the use of social media for the second time.

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.

Can I please make it clear that 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.

We have seen an increase in incidents occurring on WhatsApp and so wanted to refer you to the following links with more information about how to safeguard the use of WhatsApp.

Blocking and Reporting Users

https://faq.whatsapp.com/1142481766359885/?cms_platform=android

Limiting the use of WhatsApp Groups

https://faq.whatsapp.com/1131457590844955/?cms_platform=android

Unfortunately, a substantial amount of our dedicated learning time this academic year 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.

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 so we can limit the impact this has on children's learning time. 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 the class teacher using the class email accounts.

Yours sincerely

D Cawley

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