

Note about Social Media

Dear Parents

I am becoming increasingly concerned about the difficulties some of our pupils are having with the use of Social Media. I am worried about the length of time they are spending on it and I am particularly worried about how late some pupils are contacting each other.

There are definitely some pupils that are pretending to go to sleep then contacting each other when parents may not be aware!

It is really difficult for school to deal with the use of social media outside the school. I would really urge all parents to keep a tight rein on how much time their children spend talking to each other via electronic methods and also what they are saying to each other.

Some of our pupils struggle to maintain their friendships and need support in school, but they find this increasingly difficult when contacting each other via electronic methods.

I am asking for your help with this matter in the following ways:

1. Try to impose sensible limits on the amount of time pupils spend contacting others via electronic methods.
2. Try to ensure there are no distractions late at night when children should be going to sleep.
3. Try to keep a close eye on what is being said to each other. If the conversations are not appropriate try to ensure that they are not talking to these people in the future.

Some children think that they cannot survive without Social Media, but I believe that the contact that some of them are having with each other is causing some issues and we should think very carefully if it is appropriate or not. I have copied this section of one of the many articles online which talks about the worries concerning Social Media:

“The minimum age to open an account on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Kik, and Snapchat is 13. For Vine, Tinder and Yik Yak it's 17. YouTube requires account holders to be 18, but a 13-year-old can sign up with a parent's permission.”

Although the minimum age for many of these methods of Social Media is 13 years old I also think that, due to their Special Needs, many of our pupils will need a lot of support to manage this area of their lives throughout their time at this school and beyond.

In school we organise work in lessons and in assemblies, and we are going to reiterate the message in the run-up to Christmas, but I also ask for your help and support to try to deal with this issue effectively.

Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Regards

Barrie Taylor
Head of School

November 2016