



20th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: inappropriate use of social media

Being online is an integral part of children and young people's lives. Social media, websites and apps can be accessed through a range of devices and although these can provide new opportunities for young people's learning and growth it can also expose them to risks such as cyberbullying, emotional abuse and online abuse.

At St James' one of our aims is to teach children to be responsible users and understand how to protect themselves when using social networking sites. Along with this, our parents and carers have a responsibility around e-safety to keep their children safe and to teach them about online safety.

There have been recent concerns about the inappropriate use of social media by Year 7 children. Some Year 7 children are part of a WhatsApp group chat and have been making personal comments about other children and members of staff and this is clearly unacceptable.

Within our PSHCE curriculum, our children are encouraged to ask questions and participate in ongoing conversations about the benefits and dangers of the online world. In Year group assemblies and Form time our staff provide advice on using social media and live streaming. We would therefore ask parents and carers to support the school and their child in discussing the benefits and risks of the online world. Personal mobile devices mean that children can now be active on social media anywhere and anytime and parents, carers and school all have a duty of care to ensure that the use of social media is appropriate.

It is vital that parents and carers regularly monitor and are aware of their child's social media activity and use of the Internet (including PCs, laptops, tablets and mobile phones). We would ask that following this recent incident all Year 7 parents talk to their children about their digital footprint, the impact of unkind and inappropriate comments and about staying safe online.

Thank you for your continued support, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

Mr Maidment
Assistant Headteacher Behaviour and Attitudes