



Dear Parents / Guardians,

As part of the school's ongoing, proactive approach to 'e-Safety' and the safe use of digital technologies, we would like to take this opportunity to draw parents'/guardians' attention to the following;

Snapchat, Tik Tok Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram and other Social Media...

An increasing number of pupils are indicating that they have access to, or regularly use, social media platforms such as SNAPCHAT, TIK TOK, INSTAGRAM and/or FACEBOOK. We would like to remind parents/guardians that these platforms are 'AGE RESTRICTED' and **it is the view of the school they SHOULD NEVER be used by any primary school aged pupil.** It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to be fully aware of what their child is doing 'online.' **The school will not become involved in situations where pupils behave inappropriately on those platforms at home.** Should instances of online bullying and abuse be reported to the school by concerned parents, we will advise those parents of how to report the incident to the appropriate authorities.

It is your responsibility to keep your child safe from internet bullying while at home and by allowing them access to these types of platforms you are exposing your child to additional risk.

We suggest to use the following 5 measures to ensure that you can monitor your child's mobile phone to ensure their safety

- (1) Agree that you can have access to their phone whenever you want...Check the phone at least 5 times per week.
- (2) Make sure you know what apps they are using (age appropriate) and know all their passwords for these apps.
- (3) Look and monitor the history of their calls, messages, contacts, web-site and pictures.
- (4) No child needs their phone after 8:30pm or before 8:30am....and definitely **NO CHILD NEEDS THEIR PHONE IN THEIR BEDROOM AT NIGHT.**
- (5) At all times talk to your child regarding the dangers of social media.... Remember 1 out of 5 children talk to a stranger every day through social media.

This is by no means to say that we agree with your child having access to social media, but if you insist on letting your child avail of it, then these points just might help to keep your child safe.

I would also like to draw your attention to some aspects of our School Mobile Phone Policy:

- Pupils are not permitted to have mobile phones or any device with a CAMERA in school.
- Pupils found using a mobile phone will have the phone removed by the teacher and a parent / guardian will have to visit the school to reclaim it.

We thank you in advance for your continued cooperation and hope that the points mentioned above help you to keep your child as safe as possible. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Mrs Grugan...on behalf of the Board of Governors..