

21 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Important - Supporting Your Child's Safety on Social Media

We are writing to ask for your support regarding an increase in incidents involving Snapchat, TikTok and WhatsApp groups that are occurring outside of school hours.

While these platforms are accessed at home, the repercussions - such as social distress, peer conflict, and bullying - frequently impact the school environment and our students' well-being during the day.

Our School's Position:

Under the **Education Act 2006**, the school has the authority to discipline students for misbehaviour that occurs outside of school if it affects the school community. We take a zero-tolerance approach to online harassment and the sharing of inappropriate images.

How You Can Help:

- **Check Age Restrictions:** Most platforms (including TikTok and Snapchat) have a minimum age of 13. As a school, we recommend limiting your child's use of these apps until you feel they have the maturity to use them properly, not simply when they reach the age of 13.
- **Review Privacy Settings:** Ensure your child's account is set to "Private" and that "Snap Map" (location sharing) is turned off.
- **The Screenshot Rule:** Encourage your child to screenshot any harmful content immediately and show it to you. Do not engage with or delete the content until it has been recorded as evidence.
- **Active Monitoring:** We recommend a "digital sunset" where devices are kept in a communal area overnight.

Dealing with incidents such as these takes up a lot of staff time that could be better used supporting your child's education. Please support us by putting in boundaries on device use at home.

We are committed to working with you to keep our community safe. If you have concerns about a specific incident, please ensure that you have removed your child from the group or app and blocked any users who are causing upset before contacting your child's head of year team, who may advise you to report incidents to the police.

Yours sincerely

C Willis

Mrs Claire Willis

Assistant Headteacher - Designated Safeguarding Lead