



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/ Guardian

Re: Social Media

We are seeing an increase in the misuse of mobile phones and reports of inappropriate social media use, which often begins outside of school. We are writing to seek your support in discussing the use of social media with your child(ren), including the different social media platforms, how to stay safe online, age restrictions, how to report concerns, and appropriate use of the varying platforms. I recommend a couple of websites (detailed below) to support you in upskilling your own awareness of these platforms, as well as topics you can discuss with your children.

[What is social media? | NSPCC](#)
[Online and mobile safety | Childline](#)
[WakeUp Wednesday - National College](#)

WakeUp Wednesday is a great source for information. Once you have signed up, you will receive weekly information to support you/ your child(ren) with online safety.

In school we have a robust curriculum which tackles topics around social media misuse, however it is very difficult for a school to control and monitor our students use of social media. We will always endeavour to do our best when we find out about social media misuse, but tackling such issues must be a shared responsibility between the school, parents and students themselves.

We would suggest that if your child(ren) receives messages that you deem to pose a significant threat, or that are hateful in their content, you report them to the police on 101. In addition, the police are running webinars during January and February for parents and carers on 'The Digital Dilemma'; please find booking information attached. I have also provided further information on two areas that we feel some students are putting themselves at risk being involved with: Snapchat and Group Chats. Please take some time to read the information attached.

Finally, I would encourage you to watch a new documentary on Channel 4 called '[Swiped: The School That Banned Smartphones](#)' - this is a very informative and hard-hitting look at the reality of the impact on our young people and may assist you in your decision making when it comes to your child(ren)s access to social media.

We hope that by working together we can in reduce the harm caused by inappropriate use of smartphones. It is a joint responsibility to educate our young people and enforce appropriate use of social media inside and outside of school.

We thank you for your continued support with such a complex challenge.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Burns
Deputy Headteacher
Safeguarding Lead



Aim High



Be Inclusive



Work Together