



SCISSETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Head of School: Mrs G Senior

Executive Headteacher: Mr C Taylor

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Social Media use outside of school

I am writing to advise you of a few concerns that we have regarding children's use of social media outside of school during evenings and weekends.

Social media platforms such as Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram have had widespread impact on the way in which we communicate and express our thoughts and opinions and clearly has benefits for us all as individuals and communities however, there is a downside to the platform of social media when misused.

Unfortunately, we are seeing incidents where social media has been a vehicle for inappropriate behaviour by pupils. There are occasions when things said or done via social media platforms are at best unhelpful and at worst may constitute harassment or intimidation which could ultimately result in police intervention.

Pupils are not allowed access to phones during the school day and any pupil who breaches these rules will face serious consequences in line with school behaviour and in some cases safeguarding policy. The majority of online issues coming to our attention occur during the evenings and weekends and this has a huge impact on pupil relationships once back in 'the real world' and in the school environment.


Most social media apps are for pupils 13 years and over for a very good reason. If you do allow your child to access social media, we would like to remind you of your responsibility to oversee their online activities as, just like their interactions in person, online interactions often require supervision and support.

What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring your child's phone for the apps that are downloaded and making regular checks on content – **you pay the bill!**
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles
- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine
- Removing devices from bedrooms at night time when children need to be sleeping
- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices
- Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing

As a school we will always support pupils who have been impacted by negative social media experiences however the support and intervention from parents and carers outside of school hours is essential and we thank you for your vigilance and support moving forwards.

Yours sincerely


Mrs G Senior
Head of School


Mr C Taylor
Executive Headteacher



Working together, respecting all, because everyone matters

www.scissett.com