



Dear Parents/Carers,

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Our school values the relationship that there is between home and school. We take any parental concerns very seriously and are pleased that the vast majority are resolved by the class teacher. However, we feel it appropriate to write to you regarding the use of Social Media sites such as Facebook or Twitter and platforms such as Whatsapp and Instagram as it has come to our attention that these have become a forum for some members of our school community to openly comment on school issues, which is not appropriate.

We would therefore like to remind you that using Facebook, Twitter and other social networking and communication sites is not the correct forum to raise any issues or concerns about the school, staff, other parents or pupils. Any negative remarks on these sites can be seen as defamation of character, harassment or slander. This means that you could be prosecuted by the police. If at any time you have an issue, your first port of call should always be the class teacher. If it remains unresolved contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team then Head Teacher and if you are still dissatisfied, then you should put your complaint in writing to the Chair of Governors. This is in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

Current laws such as the 1988 Malicious Communications Act, 1997 Protection from Harassment Act and 2003 Communications Act can be used to protect individuals from malicious and threatening posts made on the internet. The victims might also choose to bring civil actions for defamation or slander. ***All necessary action will be taken to deal with any material posted on such sites that is in our opinion distressing, alarming or harassing or in any way breaches the rights of the members of our school community.***

May we also take this opportunity to remind you that it is not acceptable to upload photographs or video clips of your child taken at school which include other children onto social networking sites without the permission of the parents. We all have a responsibility to safeguard children.

We hope that you understand and appreciate our position on such matters and that you will support us by removing any comments of this kind and following the guidance we have set out in the future. We are looking to maintain the strong relationship that we have with parents and wish to work with you on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A D Thorpe

Head teacher