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USE OF SNAPCHAT

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share some important information about the use of social media as we have had some issues with Key Stage Two students using this inappropriately in recent weeks. This letter specifically focuses on Snapchat, an app that many students have reported that they use on a regular basis.

Age Restrictions and Legal Guidelines

Snapchat is a social media app designed for users who are at least **13 years old**. This age restriction is there to protect children from exposure to content and interactions that may not be suitable for their age. Allowing children under 13 to use Snapchat goes against its terms of service and, as parents, you are therefore legally responsible for ensuring your child follows these rules. Any student who does access snapchat is putting themselves and yourselves at risk through underage use.

Parental Responsibility

It is important for parents to understand how apps like Snapchat work and to be aware of the potential risks involved. These risks include:

- **Sharing personal information** with strangers.
- **Exposure to inappropriate content.**
- **Cyberbullying** or negative interactions.

While apps may seem fun and harmless, they require close monitoring to ensure your child stays safe. By waiting until your child is the appropriate age, you are helping them build healthy habits and keeping them safe online.



The Law

Within UK Law, the Malicious Communications act 1988 offers guidance around appropriate use of communication platforms with others. Any message sent via letter or electronic form (including social media) is covered by this act of law and therefore any inappropriate, offensive or threatening messages can, and should, be reported to the police. Whilst school can support the investigation of the police, if you believe your child has been subject to malicious communication this is a police matter and should be reported immediately.

Safety Advice

To help you guide your child, here are three trusted UK-based websites with valuable advice about online safety:

1. [NSPCC – Online Safety](#): Practical tips and resources for parents.
2. [Thinkuknow](#): Advice for children, parents, and schools about online safety, run by the National Crime Agency.
3. [Internet Matters](#): Guidance for protecting children online, including setting parental controls.

How You Can Help

- Talk openly with your child about the importance of following age restrictions.
- Regularly check your child's phone and see how they are using it. Check the messages they are sending to others, are they appropriate?
- Encourage your child to report if they notice inappropriate content

By working together, we can ensure that our children stay safe while enjoying the benefits of technology when they are ready for it.

If you have any questions or need further advice, please don't hesitate to contact school.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Robinson
Head of School

