

08 Sept 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Over the last few days in school, there have been an increasing number of instances where pupils have been using their phones in an unacceptable way. In the daily briefings this week I have referred to different social media platforms and their acceptable use.

I understand that many of our pupils in S1 have different accounts, be it Instagram, Facebook, TikTok or Snap Chat. I highlighted that the age requirement for these platforms is 13 and if a younger person is to hold an account, it should be monitored by a parent or carer.

The majority of our pupils are respectful of others and only use their phone for their own needs. However, a small number of pupils are not using their phones in a responsible way. No pupils should be taking videos or pictures of anyone else without their consent and they certainly should not be posting or sharing them.

Today, we were made aware of an extremely distressing video circulating on social media of a man ending his life. Despite my warning in the daily briefing, it appears that some pupils have disregarded the advice given on not sharing this video. Not only is this showing a lack of respect for others it has caused significant distress to some pupils. I would be grateful for your support in ensuring that pupils do not share this video with others and if they have it on their phones they delete it or any links to it immediately.

Should you want further information or support in how to keep your young person safe online, here are some links that have useful guides.

[Useful guides for parents on a variety of online games and social media platforms](#)

[Social Media online safety guide](#)

[NSPCC](#)

[Online safety tips for parents of 11-13 year olds](#)

Should you have any concerns or queries regarding this topic, please do not hesitate to contact the school or your child's Guidance Teacher.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Campbell-Robertson

DHT & S1 Year Head