



Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

Headteacher: Mrs A Grattage
Telephone: 01889 590394
E-mail: office@ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk
Website: www.ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk

Ryecroft C.E. Middle School
Ashbourne Road
Rocester
Staffordshire
ST14 5PB

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Online Safety and Social Media

You may recall in September, as part of our programme of support and education about keeping safe online and responsible use of social media we participated in the **NSPCC's (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) Speak out. Stay safe** programme. This consists of an online assembly led by myself followed by classroom based activities delivered by visitors from the NSPCC.

We are aware that a number of pupils use social media and have set up groups chats on various platforms. We recognise that there are lots of benefits to social networks, they can allow users to stay connected with friends and family. They can also be used to learn many different things, with a variety of tutorials on subjects such as gaming, making slime, make-up or how to create their own videos. Like most things, there can be negatives too. For children and young people there are risks that they and parents should be aware of to help keep them safe and use social media responsibly.

As mentioned in the first paragraph, we discuss, as part of their computer and PSHCE lessons, how pupils can keep safe and use the internet and social media responsibly. However, we have been made aware of and dealt with a few incidents recently where some pupils have been using and posting content on social media, outside of school, that is inappropriate and potentially dangerous.

In order to assist in keeping your child safe you may like to visit the NSPCC [Online Safety Hub](#) where you will find advice and information on a range of different online safety topics including gaming, social media, parental controls and more. The NSPCC's page on [Social Media](#), provides excellent information and advice about the commonly used social media apps including the age ratings. (Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, Twitter and Wink all have a 13+ age rating, while WhatsApp has increased its age rating to 16+). It may also be helpful if you had a discussion with your child about the use of social media.

I'd like to thank you for your support in helping to keep our pupils at Ryecroft safe, if you have any questions please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Hall
Deputy Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead

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Company Number:

Registered Office Address:

Uttoxeter Learning
Thomas Alleyne's High
Dove Bank, Uttoxeter,
ST14 8DU
T: 01889 561820

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