

Friday 15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Online Safety and Social Media

You may recall in December 2022, I wrote to the parents of the then Year 6 pupils to raise our concerns about the use of social media.

Unfortunately, we have again become aware that a number of pupils in Year 7 are using social media platforms, mainly WhatsApp, outside of school in inappropriate ways. This behaviour is impacting on pupils wellbeing both in and outside of school.


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.

The school regularly discusses, as part of their computer and PSHCE lessons, how pupils can keep safe and use the internet and social media responsibly. The same message forms part of school assemblies and workshops with outside organisations. However, we need your support to the reinforcement of these messages.

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, X (Twitter) and Wink all have a **13+ age** rating while WhatsApp is **16+**). It may also be helpful if you had a discussion with your child about the use of social media and monitor their use of these.

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