



WITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Social Media

We have recently had to deal with an increasing number of incidents at school that have been directly or indirectly caused by 'communication' between pupils on social media sites, or via their games consoles and mobile phones. Some children are exchanging quite hostile or mocking comments from the comfort of their homes, which are leading to upset and arguments. Beyond our E-Safety teaching and circle time discussions, we feel quite powerless to stop this. We cannot possibly supervise what is happening at home and really need your help to do so.

- Are you aware whether or not your child is using social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)?
- Do you know who their 'friends' are and what they are posting to each other?
- Do you know that children can chat via their XBoxes and Playstations?
- What are they texting to each other or leaving on voicemails?

It should be remembered that certain sites should not be accessed by children of middle school age at all (please see the table overleaf). For example Facebook state that you should be 13 to have an account. There are very good reasons for this. It would be sensible to close any Facebook account your child has. We need you to be monitoring what your child is doing, and ideally limiting it. Turning a blind eye to what your child is up to online or on their phone is not only unhelpful for us in terms of the impact on behaviour, but potentially puts your child at considerable risk. More information can be found on the school website concerning social media networks and keeping children safe online. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Cath Crossley
Headteacher

Perseverance – Responsibility – Independence – Determination – Empathy



Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

(Ages specified in terms as of 2014)

Twitter
Facebook
Instagram
Pinterest
Google+
Tumblr
Reddit
Snapchat
Secret

