



Wednesday 24 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

## RE: Social Media

We are aware that there is a year 7 WhatsApp group currently in operation, of which a significant number of students are members, along with others who are not identifiable. Some of the group members have been using this group for inappropriate or unkind messaging. Please be assured that we have directly contacted the parents/carers of any students who we know to be involved in activity that has caused concern. However, we kindly ask that you check your child's devices for membership of this or similar groups and reiterate to them the dangers inherent with this type of behaviour.

We will be holding a year 7 assembly on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September to reiterate key messages regarding safe and respectful behaviours online. We will also be reminding students that mobile devices are not permitted to be used anywhere on our school site, as outlined in our [behaviour policy](#).

We work with a range of online platforms; however, as an academy we cannot monitor or control the online activity of your child, and we call on your continued support as parents and carers to do so. We use the curriculum to regularly educate students about the potential risks they face, and to give strategies to help them stay safe. In common with all schools, we also work with students and families around incidents in which online behaviours and interactions affect the welfare and progress of children in school. You will find lots of useful information and guidance around online safety on our website under 'Safeguarding and Child Protection' [here](#).

We hope you find the following suggestions helpful to ensure that your child is using social media responsibly:

1. Social media apps have age limits for users. Please ensure that your child is not using a platform they are not yet old enough to use.
2. As a parent and probably the bill payer, engage in a dialogue with your child about their use of social media, checking their social media involvement as you deem appropriate. If you are the bill payer, you are liable for any content posted from the device.
3. Encourage considerate use, not writing or posting anything that could be interpreted as threatening, defaming or insulting others. Any threat of



Community



Aspiration



Respect



Excellence



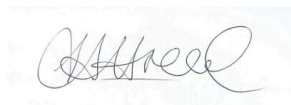
violence breaks the law.

4. Ensure that students understand that they should not add people to groups without their consent/knowledge, or to aggravate a situation.
5. Make clear that if they become aware of threatening or insulting social media use, they should share this with you or a trusted adult, in or out of school.
6. Remind them they must not take or distribute any images without the permission of the people in the image/file as this breaks the law.
7. Explain that the digital footprint they are developing is permanent and may reflect negatively on them in the future. Whilst there is a perception that posts are anonymous or disappear after a period of time, this is not the case.

**All content can be traced.**

We value our partnership with you in educating our young people about online safety and we thank you for your anticipated support and vigilance. If you are concerned about the online behaviour or safety of your child and would like to discuss this further, please contact their [house office or our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Byrne](#).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Attreed', is placed over a faint, light blue rectangular stamp.

Mrs Jodie Attreed

**Vice Principal & Designated Safeguarding Lead**