



Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

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Ryecroft C.E. Middle School
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12th February 2019

Dear Parents,

I am writing to inform you that we have been dealing with a high number of incidents in school relating to the inappropriate use of social media out of school hours, which has caused significant upset amongst pupils and has impacted on their performance in school.

We are aware that many pupils are accessing sites that **are not age appropriate** and they are sharing links to websites and images via groups that are both indecent and illegal. Websites include content that shows images of torture, violence and graphic sexual behaviour.

By disallowing the use of mobile phones in school and running a 'hand-in' policy during school time, we are able to limit the incidents that arise. In addition, we also have filtering and monitoring systems that allow us to track and pick up on the school network any activity that involves inappropriate usage. However, we are unable to effectively enforce this level of safety beyond school hours.

We talk to pupils regularly about keeping safe on the internet and educate them about the dangers and restrictions regarding social media but we strongly urge you as parents to talk to your child about the apps and sites they access and to apply parental controls via internet providers, to continue to keep them safe.

Many parents are unaware of legal age restrictions attached to the usage of certain sites and are therefore ill-prepared to deal with the potential dangers and risks faced by pupils.

Whatsapp	16 years old	Instagram	13 years old	Snapchat	13 years old
Facebook	13 years old	Youtube	requires account holders to be 18 years old		

In order to access the sites above, pupils must confirm that they are the age stated. This causes huge problems when we have complaints that under-age pupils have received unwanted content as they have lied on the initial access site and shouldn't be on there to receive it in the first place.

We are more than willing to host an evening dedicated to keeping children safe online, raising awareness about the potential dangers and difficulties faced by young people and to keep you as parents up to date with the latest developments. We also have information on our school website that offers further advice.

If this is something you would welcome, please complete the slip below and send back to school via your child.

Yours sincerely,

Miss R Baramuszcak
Headteacher

Keeping Children Safe Online

Child's Name:

Year Group:

I would be interested in attending a Parental information evening session on 'Keeping Children Safe Online'

Date to be confirmed and will be dependent on response

Please return this slip to the school office

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