



Wombwell Park Street Primary School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs G Foster-Wilson

Headteacher: Mrs C Lawson

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs L Longden

Wednesday 12th December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Social Media

It has come to our attention that an increasing number of children within school are using a variety of social media platforms, including Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram. According to the terms and conditions of these social media providers, the permitted minimum age for use is 13 (WhatsApp has a permitted minimum age of 16).

As a school we are committed, as part of our safeguarding duties, to promoting the safe and responsible use of the Internet and as such we have a responsibility to raise this particular issue as a concern.

The internet and social media provides fantastic opportunities for communication, research and interaction with others. However, it does also pose some risks that we feel it is important to raise awareness of. The decision for children to access social media platforms lay with you, as parents and carers, however we feel that it is important to highlight some of the risks that come with this usage, especially concerning using a 'fake' date of birth.

In a recent discussion with children, we became aware that many of our children are displaying their age as being 18 and above on social media. Our first concern is that other people, who view the children's 'profiles' will see them as being of this age. The second concern is that many of the social media platforms use 'age targeted' advertisements. These advertisements are dependent on the date of birth inputted. With this in mind, there is a risk that the advertisements will show materials that of an adult nature; this will include advertisements for alcohol and gambling.

Due to this fact, we would like to encourage all parents and children, if using social media, to set a date of birth that is as close to the child's age as possible. This will help to prevent children from seeing content that is not age appropriate.

In terms of the school's position, as always, we will offer support wherever possible. However, we cannot have any responsibility over the way social media is used with our pupils. We will however continue to take action (such as reporting underage profiles) if a problem comes to our attention that involves the safety or wellbeing of our pupils. We will also take action if our school is brought into dispute in any social media platforms.

Technology and the internet is a fantastic resource to all and we are certain it will continue to develop in the years ahead. As a school, we will continue to promote a clear understanding of online safety and this will play a key role in our computing curriculum. Through a shared responsibility between home and school, we endeavour to separate our children from any risk of harm.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding,

Mr A Fidment and Miss L Garratt
(KS1 and KS2 Computing and E-Safety Leads)

Wombwell Park Street Primary School is proud to be part of



Every Child Matters Academy Trust

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