



Social Media - General Awareness 1

As you are aware, the internet has become a powerful tool to connect and share ideas and opinions. In recent years, social networking sites such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter have grown in popularity and many people use them to communicate with family, friends and others. In many schools, parents start, for example, WhatsApp groups that connect particular classes. Ideally, these are a great additional resource for parents to have chats and share information.

The vast majority of people who use social networking show respect in their communication with others and this is something that we must encourage in order to show our children that we are positive 'digital role models'. But, as with many things in life, there are people who disregard the rules set.

Recently, there have been a number of high-profile cases in the media and some people have used the internet and social media platforms inappropriately. These have been investigated by the police and, in some instances, have led to criminal prosecutions. Schools have also had to seek legal advice about shared posts regarding school or members of staff that contained half-truths and rumours that were potentially defamatory.

As a school, we want to encourage parents to support us with the education and wellbeing of their children and if at any time, parents feel that they have any issues regarding their child's education, they should make an appointment with the teacher or Principal. As a community, we should all frown upon the use of social networking sites by parents to criticise and make unsubstantiated comments about the school or any members of staff.

We want to focus all our attention on providing the best possible education for your child rather than spending time issuing legal letters about untrue and damaging comments made and shared on social networking sites.

We take online safety very seriously with children and staff regularly updated on how to use the online world in a positive manner. Your continued help in championing the positive aspects of the online world is extremely important.

Thank you for your continued support.