



Every second to be  
Valuable, Inspiring, Personalised



10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Our ref: SH/196/KB

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Re: Social Media**

As a fellowship, we are often approached about issues that have arisen between pupils on social media. You will be aware that pupils are not permitted to have their mobile phones out during the school day. Inappropriate use of social media is one of the main reasons for this.

Consequently, the issues we are often approached about are taking place outside the school day with ramifications that then continue into the school day. Our pastoral team workload has increased substantially post-pandemic and it can take up a lot of time dealing with things that have happened outside of school. We therefore ask for you to report more serious issues directly to the police, such as sexting, sending or receiving inappropriate images.

As you will already be aware, your child's use of social media is part of your parental responsibility. We do understand that some children can be very sensitive about parental supervision of their mobile phone use, but it is part of parenting albeit not a straightforward aspect. We educate the pupils about the dangers and safe use of social media, but the monitoring of their usage is something that must be done at home. Many social media applications and websites have age restrictions, and this is due in part because children are not always mature enough to think through the implications of things they might post.

Some useful things to consider are as follows:

1. Be a 'friend' on your child's social media
2. Have open discussions about their social media usage
3. Share your own good practice
4. Talk about things that appear in the media where social media usage has made a situation worse – there are plenty of adults using it inappropriately!
5. Talk about when someone has used social media for good causes and how it can be a really positive tool
6. Talk about how future employers will research social media footprints
7. Charge mobile phones downstairs at night so that you know your child is not distracted by late night posts
8. Monitor how long users spend on their various apps – possibly a whole family activity and then compare and discuss
9. Watch carefully for changes in mood and increased secrecy



**IF YOU REQUIRE ANY LETTERS TRANSLATING, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL**

Ambergate Sports College, Dysart Road, Grantham, NG31 7LP. Tel: 01476 564957

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10. Monitor whether they are 'talking to' any strangers
11. Be mindful of on-line gaming and your child adding unknown 'friends'

As we have said, we appreciate this is not an easy part of parenting, but it is an important aspect.

The key is to try and ensure an open approach with your child so that they do not become secretive. We will inform you of any issues that are brought to our attention, so that you are able to address them accordingly. We will also be sending a parental support leaflet at the end of our Internet Safety Week which will contain other useful information.

You may want to visit the following links for more information:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

[https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/?gclid=EAIaIqobChMIs56q3bTU9wIVkuvvtCh3tcgEIEAAYASAAEgKCK\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/?gclid=EAIaIqobChMIs56q3bTU9wIVkuvvtCh3tcgEIEAAYASAAEgKCK_D_BwE)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely

Seriena Hodder  
CIT Safeguarding Lead

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