

Colmers Farm Primary School

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14th October 2024

Dear Parents / Carers of children in Year 6,

Re: Use of **Snapchat** and other social media platforms

We are growing increasingly concerned about the use of social media by children in Year 6. Although these interactions are occurring out of school hours, the impact of this is coming into school and causing ongoing problems between children and parents.

The content of these messages is also a cause for concern as they have contained comments that could be construed as bullying and present safeguarding concerns. These issues are taking up a considerable amount of staff time that could be used more productively elsewhere.

Please see below for the legal age at which children can access some common social media apps:

Snapchat – 13+
Facebook – 13+

Whatsapp – 16+
Instagram – 13+

Tik Tok – 13+

This is because children under this age are not considered emotionally mature and resilient enough to communicate and respond to one another in real time online as they would in person.

Although some children are deleting some of these offensive messages, or leaving the group chats, screen shots have been taken of these messages and have been shared with school staff.

Please note that the Department for Education's "Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from Maintained Schools, Academies and Pupil Referral Units in England, including pupil movement" guidance, September 2022 states:

"A pupil's behaviour outside of school can be considered grounds for suspension or permanent exclusion."

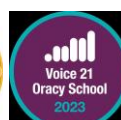
We take all forms of child-on-child abuse extremely seriously; this includes the use of discriminatory and derogatory language and bullying.



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We strongly advise that parents check their children's phones on a regular basis and remove apps which are not age appropriate. Please also speak to your children and let them know to report inappropriate conversations with other children / adults to yourselves and block them.

There is also a link to CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) on the school website (useful links section) which can be used to make reports to the police online.

We do a lot of work on this at school, and we would be grateful of your continued support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Williams
Senior Head Teacher



Mrs Young
Head of School
