



Dear Parents / Carers,

Due to a few incidents of inappropriate online content that have been brought to the school's / my attention recently we thought it would be beneficial to raise awareness about the types of online behaviour we are seeing and provide some guidance for parents / carers to help support young people online.

Most young people enjoy using social media safely and know how to report any concerns.

However, we have seen some of the following behaviour; using hate language in group chats, creating hate groups on social media platforms (e.g. Snapchat / WhatsApp), sharing of indecent images, creating multiple social media accounts and using them to share inappropriate content or creating a fake account for the purposes of bullying.

Young people's motives are varied; curiosity, risk taking, as a joke, peer-pressure and bullying. In order to prevent young people from being negatively affected by anything they might see online the following are ways that you can support your child:

How parents / carers can support young people online:

- Encourage your child to report any concerns to you so you can help them take action to block / report / remove any unwanted content.
- Review privacy settings regularly on your and your child's phone to check what personal information is being shared. Switch off location sharing.
- Delete any old social media accounts no longer in use.

- Remind young people about what is / is not appropriate behaviour online (language and images).
- Have regular conversations with your child about the apps they're using.
- Have regular conversations around friendships / relationships online.
- Ensure your child knows how to block / report inappropriate content.
- Remind your child not to share inappropriate content further.
- If your child thinks an image of them is online without their consent help them to get it removed. Most popular Apps have reporting mechanisms and will remove inappropriate images of under 18s.

Visit [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents) for more information about online safety.

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