

25.11.2022

### **Use of social networks and online safety – Year 4, 5 and 6**

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

We are aware of an increasing number of social networks and social media being used by children of our academy – either via mobile phones, games consoles or computers at home. There have recently been some isolated incidents of hostile and hurtful comments being shared online. These then come into school, and we are unable to unpick these as they happen at home. As you can appreciate, this can cause animosity and we can spend a considerable amount of time dealing with these types of incidents.

Oasis Academy Warndon is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such we feel it is our responsibility to raise this issue as a concern. It is our role, with you, to educate children on internet safety. However, it is not our role to manage these incidents of fall out online, or to police who is using sites below the age guidelines. This is parents' responsibility.

The most popular social media networks or online messaging platforms with some children seem to be TikTok, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Discord YouTube, Snapchat, Vine, Musically, XBOX/PS3 and WhatsApp. It is important to remember all these social networks have a lower age limit; most of these are 13 or above.

We also recognise that many of our children do not have access to such sites or have extremely tight controls in terms of safety and policing from parents. This is an approach we value greatly.

Moving forward, we would ask that you consider the following questions:

- Are you aware whether or not your child is using social media (e.g. Tiktok, Instagram, Snapchat)?
- Do you know who their 'friends' are and what they are posting to each other?
- Do you know that children can chat via their X Boxes and PlayStations?
- What are they messaging/texting to each other (on a range of sites or on mobiles) or leaving on voicemails?
- Do you have internet safety controls set up online so that your child cannot access certain sites?

Sites like Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok, Snapchat and Discord say that you need to be 13 to have an account. We would advise any parent to shut down any account until your child is at least 13.

We must remember that pupils of primary school age are children and, whilst the digital age suggests a level of technical maturity, it does not therefore mean that they are mature enough to be on open online platform. Sadly, the internet is not a safe place for children who are on sites that could enable inappropriate contact from people they do not know.

This site has some excellent guides for parents

[E-safety Guides for Schools | National Online Safety](#)

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Suzanne Owen'.

Deputy Principal UKS2

Principal - Mrs Suzanne Owen

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