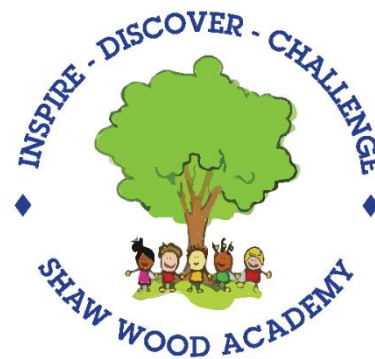


Shaw Wood Academy

INSPIRE-DISCOVER-CHALLENGE

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19th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are becoming increasingly aware of children at Shaw Wood using different social media platforms to communicate with their peers. However, these communications are not always positive and are causing problems for some children.

In school, the children are taught extensively about online safety and the firewalls in school ensure that the children are safe when accessing the internet. However, the responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media, or indeed their use of the internet outside school lies with parents. We strongly encourage you to discuss issues around this with your children. If your child is the victim of inappropriate use, then we strongly recommend that you as a parent, report the matter to both the website developer and to the police. Whilst staff at Shaw Wood **can educate the children about correct internet usage and work extensively on good friendships within school, we have no jurisdiction to deal with incidents occurring on social media, and cannot investigate it.**

Most social media sites set age restrictions. **Facebook and TikTok for example, sets an age restriction of 13 years of age** for users of its site, whilst **WhatsApp has an age restriction of 16 years**. However, there is no verification and younger children often ignore the terms and conditions of use, unaware of the risks this might pose. Something to remember is that if your child is using false information to obtain an account on a social media site, other people can do so as well.

Most social media sites allow users to set their profiles to 'private' for viewing only by approved contacts. By not using these settings, users can put themselves at risk. Children and young people can also put themselves, and others, at risk when they:

- Upload inappropriate, offensive or even illegal content to their own online spaces
- Post material that could damage their reputation or the reputation of others
- Post inappropriate comments on other people's profiles that is humiliating or results in bullying
- Accept friend requests or engage in chat with people who they do not know. Violence or threat of violence expressed online is completely unacceptable and potentially criminal.

If you need further information on how to keep your child safe online, there are some useful websites that offer parents guidance:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Please support us to keep your children safe.

Mrs L Taylor
Head of School 3-11



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