



ST JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Guardians

Tuesday 10 October 2017

Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 Pupils Use of Social Media

In following up a complaint from a pupil about comments that had been made by other children via Social Media, the school has seen videos uploaded to the Musical.ly app by a number of Year 5 and Year 6 children.

We found that a significant number of children are singing along to songs which contain explicit lyrics. Some children are also dancing and displaying body language which is inappropriate for their age. These videos are open for anyone in the public to see and share.

School staff will be having direct conversations with the parents of the children displaying the most concerning behaviours but we are writing to all parents in Years 4, 5 and Year 6 so you can take this opportunity to discuss Social Media use with your children.

In a recent anonymous survey, the majority of Year 5 and Year 6 children stated that they use Social Media on a regular basis and that they usually use Social Media at home, often in their bedrooms. We have used the outcome of this survey to reinforce e-safety guidance in Computer Science lessons and through phase group assemblies.

Most apps have a high age limit of at least 13+ as children are not always of a maturity to discern how their actions may be misinterpreted or shared across the online community. This leads to children being vulnerable to online bullying by strangers and also by people they already know.

While the school cannot monitor or control what children do in their own time, we have a duty to respond to any safeguarding concern wherever it takes place. We therefore advise parents to be vigilant about what their children are doing online. To support you, there are there are excellent resources available via the following websites:

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

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

St Joseph's has a designated lead person for Child Protection and Safeguarding so please make an appointment to see Mrs Studd should you require additional guidance and resources.

Yours sincerely

Ms B Kirby
Associate Head of School

