Rolls Crescent Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

As you are aware, access to and use of social media is common these days and has become second nature to many of us. With this in mind, we wanted to provide some advice that is intended to help safeguard your children and yourselves as parents/carers.

Social media is a good example of how online behaviour can present e-safety risks. Users can express themselves with online personalities and chat and socialise with peers. They can publish and share multimedia content such as music, photos and video clips. If used inappropriately however, users can put themselves and others at risk.

Most social media sites set age restrictions. Facebook, for example, sets an age restriction of 13 years of age for users of its site. 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 e.g. in chatrooms while playing online games such as Fortnite.

We would like to remind all of our parents, carers and pupils that they should only have age appropriate social media accounts. For those students that do have access, we would like to advise parents/carers on how to keep them safe when using social media, and online generally.

The following tips may be useful:

-Use the privacy settings on the phone to limit who reads your feed

-Keep location settings off when on social media

-Do not share personal information or images/video with anyone online

-Do not accept a friend request from someone you do not know in real life

-Know how to block or report anything concerning on sites and apps they use. Use Net Aware to find out how.

-Look out for the CEOP icon to report any suspicious or concerning areas on apps/sites

-Check out the NSPCC tools, including being Share Aware.

-Remember that online behaviour – including sharing personal information – should mirror behaviour in person

-Perhaps download the ZipIt app to help you to deal with requests for inappropriate photos.

If you have received or sent any information, images or video to someone whom you do not know, you may want to talk about this with someone. You can share a concern with staff at school. The safeguarding leaders are Jane Traore, Lee Morgan, Jeff Reynolds, Helen Turner and Sandra Graham.