



## ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS C. E. (FOUNDATION) PRIMARY AND PRE-SCHOOL

Respect. Resilience. Responsibility. Confidence. Co-operation. Compassion.

23 October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Year 5 Social Media**

As partners in your child's education, we are committed to their safety and well-being both inside and outside of the school environment.

Following on from our recent class workshop from Healthy Minds which covered 'Friendship, Kindness and Social Media', it has come to our attention that many of our Year 5 pupils now own a mobile phone; which comes with a lot of responsibilities at such a young age.

In today's digital age, children have easy access to various online platforms and social media. While these tools offer many benefits, it is also crucial for us, as parents and educators, to be aware of the potential risks associated with their use.

Regularly checking your child's phones and group chats allows you to:

1. **Protect against cyberbullying and inappropriate content:** By monitoring their digital interactions, you can ensure that your child is not experiencing any form of cyberbullying, harassment, or exposure to inappropriate content. Promptly addressing these issues can help protect their well-being.
2. **Guide responsible online behaviour:** By knowing what your child is engaging with online, you can guide them in developing responsible and respectful digital habits. This includes teaching them about online etiquette, privacy settings, and the potential consequences of their actions.
3. **Foster open communication:** Regularly checking their phones and group chats creates an opportunity for open and honest conversations about their online experiences. This dialogue allows you to address any concerns, provide guidance, and ensure that they feel supported.
4. **Monitor online friendships:** By reviewing their chats and interactions, you can gain insights into their online relationships. This can help you identify any potential risks posed by strangers or those who may have a negative influence on their well-being.

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We understand that privacy is an important aspect of a child's development, and we respect that. However, it is essential to balance privacy with their safety. By staying involved and regularly checking their phones and group chats, you can help protect your child from potential dangers and foster responsible digital citizenship.

We encourage you to engage in open conversations with your child about their digital lives, discussing topics such as online safety, responsible internet use, and the importance of respectful communication. By working together, we can ensure that our children navigate the online world confidently and safely.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding online safety or need further guidance on monitoring your child's digital activities, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you and your child in fostering a positive and secure online environment.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in prioritising the well-being and safety of our children.

Yours faithfully

*Mrs Berry*

Headteacher