



25th May 2021

Broadstone Hall Primary School The use of Social Media

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today's young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world, living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. At Broadstone Hall Primary School we are committed to working with our parents and guardians to ensure are children are safe both on and off line.

As our society becomes more technology based, we understand that the use of social media is central to the lives of many young people. In school, we work to build resilience in all our pupils to help them both embrace the digital era and protect themselves online. We place much emphasis on respect, dignity and inclusion throughout our school motto and curriculum and underline the importance of these values when educating our children about the use of technology.

Most social media and gaming sites set an age restriction for users of their site, for example WhatsApp aged 16, TikTok and snapchat 13+. However, there is no verification and we know some young people often ignore the terms and conditions of use, unaware of the risks it might pose.

Pupils could be putting themselves and others at risk when they:

- Do not know who they are talking to...someone may pretend to be someone else.
- Upload inappropriate content
- Post photos and material which could damage their own or others reputations
- Post inappropriate comments and pictures on other people's profiles that are humiliating or result in bullying
- Create false profiles and accept friend requests or engage with people they do not know.

There are occasions however, when things said in the virtual world are at best unhelpful and at worst, may constitute harassment, bullying or intimidation, which could ultimately lead to police involvement. In the interest of safeguarding and the online world, we would recommend the following:

- ✓ Have a conversation with your child about appropriate use, including the impact of 'peer pressure' when with friends, how anonymous or instantaneous online communication can change behaviours and online 'stranger danger' can occur.
- ✓ Ensure your child understands how their actions can affect others and the impact it may have on individuals both mentally and emotionally.
- ✓ Remind your child that things posted or said on line forms part of their digital footprint.
- ✓ If you choose to allow your child to use online social networking sites, set privacy settings and block anonymous posts

Broadstone Hall Primary School



- ✓ Encourage your child to tell you about anything which makes them feel 'uncomfortable'
- ✓ Refrain from posting anything which could damage reputations or be considered offensive, inappropriate or illegal- it is important to discuss what this kind of comments this may include
- ✓ Report and block any activity which is inappropriate or risky

The online world develops and changes at great speed. New opportunities, challenges and risks are appearing all the time. This can make it difficult for parents to stay up to date with the latest devices, platforms, apps, trends and related threats.

To support parents with the issue of internet safety, we have added links below to the "think you know" website, which provides information, advice and activities for parents to complete at home with their children.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/early-years/>
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/5-7s/>
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/8-10s/>

We have also arranged an internet safety afternoon for next half term on Wednesday 23/06/21 for parents to attend, (if social distancing regulations permit). Tanya Cross, who is the Local Authority leader on internet safety, will run this session and I would recommend it to any parent who has concerns over social media use etc.

We will send a reminder about this afternoon after the half term holidays.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Langley,

Headteacher