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Social Media and Incidents Outside of School

Dear families,

I am writing to you with a few reminders regarding children's use of social media outside school but also **a plea to please ensure you have knowledge and control over what your children are doing on their mobile devices.**

A lot of school staff's time is used up by sorting issues that have occurred outside of school, quite often on social media. Just this morning for example, I have met with three parents/carers regarding other children being abusive online. It is of course part of our duty as a school to work alongside parents and carers to keep all children who attend South Kirkby Academy safe inside and outside of school, and we do this through our PSHE and Computing curriculum plus assembly time, however there are a number of things you as parents and carers can do to keep their children safe when using mobile devices, the internet and social media.

- The **NSPCC** have a useful web page guide with tips on it for parents/carers. Please click [here](#) to open it.
- There are a number of **age restrictions** on social media platforms and games. Please click [here](#) to open a useful guide.

You will note that almost ALL social media platforms have a minimum age requirement of 13 years old, which means that strictly speaking, no children at our school of 7-11 year-olds should have any of the apps listed on their own devices.

I do however understand that this is not a realistic expectation, and children can and do use these apps sensibly.

There are a number of ways you can help your children stay safe online, including setting up parental controls on their mobile devices and apps. There are also apps available, such as Google Family Link (click [here](#)), which enable you to have oversight of what your children are doing on their mobile devices from your own phone or tablet.

It is also my strong recommendation that you regularly check your child's device, including their conversation history, contacts and internet search history to ensure you are confident they are using their devices appropriately.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support with keeping your children safe online.

Mr Adam Potter
Headteacher