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## **SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS**

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I am writing to you regarding the use of social media platforms. I have recently led a Year 8 assembly on this topic, and I will be leading the same assembly to Year 7 students next week. Students also receive information on this through Personal Development lessons and over the past two weeks Year 7 students have been learning about online safety, where to report abuse and what to do if people they do not know contact them.

The legal age to use Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, TikTok, Instagram and many other social media platforms is a minimum guidance age of 13. WhatsApp was recently changed to 16. I am sure you have seen articles about social media platforms taking more control of their sites. Another platform to be aware of when checking devices is Roblox.

It is advised that if your child has these apps or media access on their phones / iPad / Xbox / PS4 or any gaming facility that has access to strangers then I would strongly advise that you either remove them and/or regularly check all their devices to ensure they are not putting themselves at risk when using technology.

If you or your child spot any material that appears unpleasant or of a graphic/inappropriate nature, please report this to the following:

- 1) The Police
- 2) The social media platform themselves
- 3) Ensure your child removes themselves, blocks and deletes all elements. Ensure this is also deleted from the 'deleted folders' and iCloud/online storage facility

I am sure you will agree that it is essential that collectively we all try to stamp out inappropriate media use and help to not only educate our young people but also help to protect them, so they are not vulnerable online. This also includes talking through 'stranger danger' and that if they are accessing these platforms, it is critical they are not accepting people they do not know online.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could help support us by talking to your child about the above which will mirror what we are teaching them in school at present.

If you have any questions or queries regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss L Meek**  
**Head of Year 8 and Supporting Year 7**  
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