

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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1st December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 7

Social Media Concerns

I am writing to advise of some concerns that have been raised regarding the use of social media.

I have been made aware of several very large 'group chats', on platforms such as Snapchat and WhatsApp. As a school, we are concerned that these appear to be unmanaged and that not all parents are aware of their children's participation.

I have also spoken to the year group previously about the taking and sharing of pictures in these groups during the school day. As you are aware, students should not be using their phones within the school day and the taking/sharing of images is prohibited under our acceptable usage policy and presents a safeguarding concern.

Please be reminded that most social media apps are for young people aged 13+, with Whatsapp being 16+. We would ask for your vigilance and support in ensuring only proper use of mobile phone devices is taking place. Just like interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support. What is right for you as a family will vary, but we would recommend the following:

- Monitoring their phones for apps that are downloaded
- Enabling parental controls
- Reviewing messages that they send and receive on platforms and apps
- Discussing online safety regularly and setting clear expectations.

As a school, we are limited on our ability to monitor devices but work with outside agencies including the police where required. In school we provide education, advice and guidance through PSHE, assembly sessions and our computing lessons and thank you in advance of your monitoring at home.

Please also see below link for tips to support with online safety:

[Social media | NSPCC](#)

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Robinson

Transition Leader - Year 7 Progress Leader