

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity

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17th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Social Media

As a school we remain vigilant towards online safety and encourage all parents/carers to monitor the use of social media by their children. Unfortunately, within the last 24hrs we have been made aware of a Snapchat group that has been setup and used to share content we deem as inappropriate between members of the group who attend QEGS.

We would like to take this opportunity to ask you to review with your child:

- a) their privacy settings on platforms they use
- b) that they are only accessing age-appropriate social media platforms

As a result, we would like to remind you that all social media platforms have an age rating, for example Snapchat should only be used by users aged 13+ which means students in our Year 7 cohort should not be using this platform.

Please see guidance and information overleaf that we hope you will find useful including links to reporting tools.

Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Amps
Deputy Headteacher

Mr M Walker
Deputy Headteacher

Social Media Reporting Tools:

- Facebook: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/help/263149623790594>
- X (formerly Twitter): <https://support.twitter.com/articles/15789-how-to-report-violations>
- Instagram: <https://help.instagram.com/165828726894770/>
- SnapChat: <https://support.snapchat.com/ca/abuse>

Unfortunately, many social networking apps do not make reporting inappropriate use straightforward. As always, extreme care should be taken to avoid sharing any personal information online. Any suspicions of criminal activity should be reported to the police.

Other Useful Links:

- Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>
- CEOP's 'Thinkuknow' web site: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- Safer Internet Day: <https://www.saferinternetday.org/>
- Parental advice for Facebook and Instagram: <https://www.common sense media.org/social-media>
- Childnet (lots of useful resources): <https://www.childnet.com/>
- NSPPC Online Safety: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Online Safety Tips:

- Ensure privacy settings are turned on so that only friends and family can see your personal information, including your location.
- Only 'friend' people online that you know in the real world.
- Do not post videos/images of your school, workplace or home that could be used to identify your location.
- Never arrange to meet anyone in person that you only know online.

What can parents do to help?

- The number one tip for keeping your child safe is to talk to them. Anyone with teenagers will know this can be difficult but try to encourage them to talk to you about what they're doing with technology, even ask them to teach you! Try not to be intimidated by the technology and be as open with your child as possible.
- Discuss any worries or concerns your child may have in an open and non-judgmental way.
- Remind them to keep personal information safe.
- Set a good example. Explain why you are protecting your information and pictures.
- Consider house rules such as 'no phone mealtimes' or not allowing mobile devices in your child's bedroom.
- Use strong passwords.
- Discourage them from "collecting friends". Only be friends online with people you know offline. It's the quality of friends, not the quantity, which counts.
- Let your child use you as an excuse to be safe if they need to. Saving face with their peers by blaming Mum or Dad may give your child space to do what is right.