

Hall Close
Marske-by-the-Sea
Redcar
TS11 6AB

24th November 2023

Re: Social Media use outside of school

Dear Parents/Carers.

We are writing to advise you of a few concerns that we have regarding children's use of social media outside of school during evenings and weekends.

There are several groups of pupils using social media to be persistently unkind about other pupils over platforms such as Snapchat and WhatsApp. We understand that this has included both sharing unkind comments about pupils and sharing unkind images or memes of the pupils. This is leading to a lot of upset and polarisation of some pupils within school and is not in line with our ethos or values.

Most social media apps are for pupils 13 years and over therefore we appreciate that our cohort of pupils are legally allowed to access these platforms. If you do allow your child to access social media, we ask for your vigilance. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support. What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring their phones for the apps that are downloaded
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles
- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine
- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices
- Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing and how their day has been at school

Whilst we appreciate the benefits (and prevalence) of these forms of communication, given our pupils' challenges with social interaction and social communication, many of our pupils are struggling when any problems or conflict arise as a result of what is being shared.

We are asking for your partnership in dealing with this, as this is happening outside of school.

Hall Close
Marske-by-the-Sea
Redcar
TS11 6AB



As a school we are responding to this with additional teaching during Computing, Citizenship and PSHE lessons and in 1:1 conversations and teaching opportunities as they arise.

Thank you for your co-operation and support of all we do to keep your child safe at Invested Education.

Yours sincerely.

Mr D J Parrish

Headteacher
Invested Education
Dave.parrish@invested-education.com
Tel: 01642 502224