



19 October 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Over the last few weeks, I have been made aware of some issues concerning how some children in Year 7 have been using social media, specifically WhatsApp and Snapchat, and it is our duty to report these issues to you and to ask for your help in preventing them from occurring again in the future. Some of our pupils and parents have expressed some concern about the things that were happening in the groups and have shared their phones with us so that we can best help them.

These are the concerns that have been reported to us:

- Children have been taking photos/videos of others without permission and sharing them in their group chats.
- Children have been using their phones late at night.
- Children are using foul language and internet abbreviations for swearing regularly in the group chats.
- Children are making derogatory comments about other pupils.
- Children are being continually added to the chat group, even when they have opted to leave.

It is clear that many of the pupils are not proving to be as responsible and mature about the technology they are being allowed to engage with as you would expect and are potentially placing themselves at risk. I am sure that many of you will be as shocked and disappointed to discover these issues as we are.

Therefore, I would like to ask that, as a parent and/or guardian, you are monitoring your child's behaviour online and reminding them of what appropriate behaviour looks like. There are a number of applications available to support the monitoring of phone usage should you wish to use that method of monitoring online activity.

Moving forward, we will be seeking to engage students with education on social media usage and make it clear of the expectations placed upon them.

Please be aware that if you have concerns about online behaviour, it can be reported on to CEOP online. (See link at the end of this letter)

Kind regards,

Mr D Carpenter
Head of Year 7

CEOP online - [CEOP Safety Centre](#)

Useful link for talking to students about online behaviour: -
[Online Safety Shareables - Ineqe Safeguarding Group](#)