



# Queen Elizabeth II High School

Douglas Road, Peel, Isle of Man IM5 1RD

Tel: (01624) 841000 Email: [qe2enquiries@sch.im](mailto:qe2enquiries@sch.im)

Headteacher: Mrs C Clarke



12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

The online world is an essential part of our daily lives and learning how to use technology safely is an essential skill for young people. Apps such as TikTok and Snapchat, for example, are extremely popular but risks are posed and it is important that schools, parents and carers work together to take an active role in teaching children about online dangers. Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an incredibly important part of safeguarding our children and your role as a parent or carer can make a significant difference. It is your responsibility to ensure that your child is using their online devices appropriately and safely. School staff are also working hard to support you in this. To minimise incidents in school, I must emphasise that, as per our mobile phone policy, mobile phones should not be seen or heard during the school day between 8.45am and 3.15pm. Many issues linked to social media usually happen beyond the school day but can have a major impact upon the happiness and progress of students.

If any aspect of ICT is misused in the school using our equipment, we will identify and address this misuse. Fortunately, this type of misuse is incredibly rare and this is helped by the fact that students are not able to access any social media sites on our network. Indeed, most of the inappropriate use of the internet is done from home or on students' mobile devices during evenings, weekends and holidays. As a school we would not investigate this.

If your child is the victim of inappropriate use, then we strongly recommend that you, as a parent or carer:

- Report the matter to the social media service;
- Consider if you need to report the matter to the police;
- Consider using an online report/remove tool to take down any harmful content:
  - <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

To support you and your child the school will:

- Continue, through PSHE and assemblies, to educate students of the dangers of inappropriate use of the internet;
- Continue to monitor the use of any form of ICT in normal school hours and the use of the school email system at all times, and will deal with anything deemed inappropriate;
- Refer anything that we believe could be defined as, or could potentially lead to, a Child Protection issue to the appropriate external agencies;
- Continue to support parents/carers with advice on how to tackle inappropriate use either by their own child or others.

Below are some points that can be acted upon by parents and carers to support children with their social media use:

1. Communicate with your children about their online behaviour. Ask them what they are doing and which sites they are using. Most social media sites stipulate a minimum user age of 13. Make sure that children know how to use the privacy tools provided and that they are aware of the importance of keeping their profiles private.



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2. Support your child in ensuring that they only add contacts that they also know and trust offline. Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online is dangerous. One way to keep an eye on how your child uses a social networking site is to connect with them.
3. Underline the importance of not publishing or forwarding images and videos which jeopardise their safety or integrity. Nothing which is published online can ever be deleted; everything should be assumed to be permanent. They should also ensure that they have permission from others before posting images of them online. It is a criminal offence to circulate inappropriate images of children, even if they are of you.
4. Emphasise the importance of thinking before they post something online. Remind them that messages can be misunderstood online. If they are not sure and would not be happy for their parents and teachers to see it, it is best not to post it.
5. Limit the time your children spend online and do not let them take their devices to bed with them, as recent research has shown this to have a detrimental effect on sleep and performance at school. Insist upon device free time during the day.

I hope that you find this information useful and by working together, as outlined in this letter, I trust that we can keep all our students safe and well.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'O. Graham'.

Mrs. Olivia Graham  
Assistant Headteacher