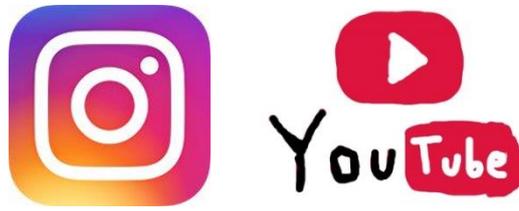


12.12.16



Dear Parents,

Following a small number of concerns brought to our attention over recent weeks, we would like to offer the following advice and guidance about the use of social media (at home) by our children.

We hope that the timing of this advice will support you in reminding your child about being safe when playing with any new internet based Christmas gifts.

In particular, we are aware that a number of our children have their own YouTube accounts (which, like Facebook have a lower age limit of 13 years) and also use Instagram regularly.

Children often spend hours searching and watching their favourite videos, researching a school topic or creating their own videos and uploading them to share with family and friends. Unfortunately, not everything on YouTube is child friendly, and young people can come across some very inappropriate content. In addition, by uploading (into a public space) videos or photos without the subject's full permission there is potential for children to cause harm to others without realising, or considering the full impact of their actions. Feedback and responses on the children's accounts may also provide the opportunity for negative and unkind comments.

Please see the web links below:

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/a-parents-ultimate-guide-to-youtube#>

<https://www.common sense media.org/social-media/what-age-should-my-kids-be-before-i-let-them-use-instagram-facebook-and-other-social>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/youtube/>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/instagram/>

<http://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/YouTube-5-Top-Tips-for-Parents>

Please note that children are not allowed to use mobile phones or take photos without permission at all on our school site. We discourage children from bringing a mobile phone to school. If it is absolutely necessary, phones must be handed in on arrival at school. They are kept in a locked container (the school will not accept liability for them).

Photos or video from school events or of school students should not be placed on any social networking sites, publications or digital presentations without the written consent of the child and their legal guardian.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diana West', written in a cursive style.

Diana West