Great Marlow School

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HEADTEACHER
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Mr N Maguire

Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to share some rising concerns we have at Great Marlow School regarding the impact of social media on our students' wellbeing and learning.

Growing Challenges Linked to Social Media
Recently, we have seen an increase in issues stemming from social media use, such as:

- Friendship breakdowns
- Conflicts between students
- Emotional distress impacting concentration and learning

While our pastoral team is committed to supporting every child, the volume and complexity of these cases are becoming unsustainable. We want to work together to help our students navigate the online world safely and responsibly.

Reminders for Students
We regularly remind students about responsible online behaviour and the potential harms, including:

- Unkind or hurtful messages
- Sharing or taking screenshots of private conversations
- Group chat fallouts
- Anonymous or "hidden" comments/posts

Although we strongly discourage the use of social media under the age of 16, we recognise that many of our students are already active online.

How Parents and Carers Can Help
Your involvement is essential. We encourage you to:

- Have open, ongoing conversations with your child about their online life
- Set and maintain clear boundaries for device and app use
- Actively monitor your child's social media activity, including reviewing privacy settings and follower/friend lists together
- Regularly review and update parental controls on devices and apps

Recommended Guidance and Parental Controls

Our online safety resources are a useful starting point; they can be found on our school [website](#). For further information, please see these guides for popular platforms:

- TikTok Guidance – [LINK](#)
- Instagram Guidance – [LINK](#)
- Snapchat Guidance – [LINK](#)

Be aware that children may attempt to [bypass controls](#) using:

- Alternative accounts
- Accessing social media on other devices
- Using VPNs to hide their activity
- Registering accounts with incorrect dates of birth

Practical Steps to Support Your Child:

- Set age-appropriate boundaries for social media use
- Keep devices out of bedrooms overnight to encourage healthy sleep habits
- Review privacy settings and follower lists together
- Encourage your child to report upsetting or concerning content
- Remind your child that their online behaviour can have real-world consequences

Our Commitment

We will continue to deliver education about digital responsibility and online safety at school. However, we know that a strong partnership between home and school is vital for keeping our young people safe and well.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to foster a safe, respectful, and positive online environment for all our students.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Maguire
Deputy Headteacher (DSL)
Great Marlow School