



Red Hall Primary School, Headingley Crescent, Darlington, Co Durham, DL1 2ST

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26th September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Internet safety and the use of Social Media

Red Hall Primary School is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such we feel it is our responsibility to raise the use of social media as a growing concern.

It has come to our attention that a growing number of our younger pupils are using **Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram.**

For these social media sites you are required to be at least 13 years old before you can create an account. None of our pupils are over 13 years of age.

When monitoring your son/daughter's internet use, please remind yourself of the concerns of social media;

- Many sites use 'targeted' advertising and therefore your child could be exposed to adverts of a sexual or other inappropriate nature, depending on the age they stated when they registered. They may have lied about their age to get an account, making them appear older than they are, increasing this risk.
- Young people may accept friend requests from people they don't know in real life. The general rule is, if they aren't friends in real life, they shouldn't be 'friends' online.
- Language, games, groups and content posted or shared on social media is NOT moderated, and therefore can be offensive, illegal or unsuitable for young people.
- Photographs shared by users are NOT moderated and therefore young people could be exposed to inappropriate images or even post their own.
- Social media sites can be exploited by bullies.
- Social media sites cannot and do not verify its members, therefore, it is important to remember that if your son/daughter can lie about who they are online, so can anyone else.

Although we have no control over matters occurring out of school hours, we will take action (such as reporting under age profiles) if one comes to our attention.

Should you decide to allow your child to have an online profile we strongly advise you:

- Check their profile is set to private and that only their friends can see information they post.
- Monitor your child's use and talk to them about safe and appropriate online behaviour such as not sharing personal information and not posting or messaging offensive /inappropriate messages or photo's.
- Monitor your child's use of language and how they communicate to other people, ensuring profanity is discouraged.
- Set up your own profiles so you understand how the site works and ask them to have you as their friend on their profile so you know what they are posting online.



- Make sure your son/daughter understand the following rules:
 - Always keep your profile private.
 - Never accept friend you do not know in real life.
 - Never post anything which could reveal your identity including photographs wearing school uniform where possible.
 - Never post anything you wouldn't want your parents or teachers to see.
 - Never agree to meet somebody you only know online without telling a trusted adult.
 - Always tell someone if you feel threatened or someone upsets you.

Through lessons provided at school we do our best to provide our children with the awareness and knowledge they need in order to recognise and avoid dangerous behaviour and to respond appropriately. However, it is only through working together with parents and carers that we will succeed.

Thank you for your support with this matter.



Ms Julie Davidson
Head Teacher

*Please note all copies of school letters can be viewed on the website at www.redhallprimary-darlington.co.uk

