

Head of School: Mr Kevin Minnott
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Robin Entwistle
Assistant Headteacher: Mr Fred Banks



William Booth Road, Anerley SE20 8BW
t: 020 8778 6101
e: admin@jamesdixon.bromley.sch.uk
w: www.jamesdixon.bromley.sch.uk

James Dixon Primary School

Wednesday 2nd December 2020

Dear Parent,

It has come to our attention that some of our pupils are improperly using social media and instant messaging platforms on their electronic devices.

Our concerns regarding this matter relate to issues of online safeguarding.

While we recognise the internet is an important and enjoyable part of everyday life and learning, there have to be measures and restrictions in place, particularly in the context of a school.

There have been instances of derogatory messages and threats via instant messaging, which is unacceptable. Not only does this distract the children involved, but also disrupts friendships and inhibits the children's ability to work together in school.

Online safeguarding

We want to ensure the safe online experience of our pupils and prevent them from being exposed to dangerous areas of the internet. Statutory DfE guidance within 'Keeping children safe in education' (2019), states:

"Children can abuse other children. This is generally referred to as peer on peer abuse and can take many forms. This can include (but is not limited to) bullying (including cyberbullying)"

We must be assertive and proactive in keeping our young, potentially vulnerable, children safe in an increasingly connected world. For this reason, it is vital that all parents are aware of and understand current regulations and guidance. For example, it may be useful to know the following age requirements for holding social media accounts:

- Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, YouTube – 13 years
- WhatsApp – 16 years

These are some of the most common social media platforms. While we appreciate the majority of the content on these platforms is harmless, these restrictions are in place for a reason – your child could be exposed to offensive material.

Despite these regulations, the vast majority of social media sites do not ask for proof of age as a comprehensive and effective system to verify ages has not yet been developed.¹ Therefore, the responsibility primarily is with parents, to monitor acceptable use of social media.

¹ UK Council for Child Internet Safety (2010) 'Good practice guidance for the providers of social networking and other user-interactive services' p.19



Sustainable Travel
Accredited & Recognised
sustainable level



Executive Headteacher: Mrs Michelle Aldred

What we ask from you

We have to work together as a community to protect the safety and wellbeing of pupils and uphold school values. Therefore, we ask you to:

- **Be diligent with your children's use of social media.**
- **Be aware of the age requirements for social media platforms and sites – is it above the age of your child/children? Are these sites and their content appropriate for your child/children to be using?**
- **Urge children, as we will, to refrain from using electronic devices disrespectfully.**

Fundamentally, we want our pupils and our school community to be safe, and the school to be a place where everyone is given the opportunity to learn and work to the best of their ability. I hope that you agree with our position and the points set out in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Kevin Minnott
Head of School



Sustainable Travel
Accredited & Recognised
sustainable level



Executive Headteacher: Mrs Michelle Aldred