

06 February 2020

Dear families,

Urgent E-Safety Advice

We continue to be concerned that a large number of our students have access to the internet at home without appropriate parental supervision.

Despite running e-safety workshops for parents, lectures on being safe and responsible using the internet, holding e-safety week in cycle 1 and publishing key e-safety information on the academy newflashes, a particular concern is the number of students who have set up their own accounts / profile to access social media platforms and websites / games such as Youtube, Snapchat, Fortnite, Twitter, TikTok, PS Messenger and WhatsApp.

As a result of these accounts being set up, there have been a number of incidents where very unkind words and behaviour has taken place at weekends, evenings and school holidays involving a number of students at the academy. The police have had to take action in some instances.

We are therefore again reminding parents to be acutely aware of their child's online activity; none of the families were aware of the incidents outlined above, so we urge you to check electronic devices daily to see what your child is accessing or publishing online.

The Terms of Service to create a Youtube states that the person is, at least, 18 years of age. We therefore advise that if your child has Youtube subscription / account that this is deactivated regardless of whether it is supervised. Children do not need to subscribe to Youtube in order to watch appropriate Youtube videos. Please ensure your Safesearch settings are enabled to allow your child to search to videos safely.

In terms of other social media platforms; the guidance states that a person must be over the age of 13 to access these. Again, we have dealt with incidents where parents believed their supervision was adequate but unfortunately they were unaware of what exactly was being said on these social media platforms.

There have been issues relating to the use of Fortnite; a game rated as 12+ by the PEGI. Advice from the PEGI is that this age restriction should be increased by the parent if you feel your child is susceptible to addictive online behaviour.

Twitter requires its users to be aged 13+ regardless of whether parents monitor this.

We strongly recommend that age guidelines are adhered to at all times.

The academy has a duty to safeguard all its students as do parents. If we feel that appropriate measures to safeguard children are not being put into practice; we may have to seek advice from relevant authorities including Bradford Children's Services.

Students also need to be aware that publishing information online leaves a digital footprint and could lead to criminal proceedings if the child is 10 or over.

Thank you in advance for ensuring that your child is safe when accessing the internet. Further advice and information can be found at <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Yours faithfully

Mrs Helen Haunch
Principal

