



## Bleakhouse Primary School

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Dear Parents / Carers

In our modern world, many people enjoy using Social Media to share their news and thoughts, we also know that many of our children enjoy playing games online, including Fortnite, which allow children to communicate with others that you or they may not know.

As a school, we are conscious we need to work together with Parents and Carers to safeguard and protect all our children and the staff online. We regularly talk to all the children about how they can help to keep themselves safe online and we have sent information to Parents / Carers. You will find links to this on our website.

It has come to our attention that there are an increasing number of instances whereby children at Bleakhouse are using Instagram, TikTok, WhatsApp and other social media sites to upload images and videos of themselves and/or their friends outside of school. Children are also viewing images and memes on such sites as TikTok and YouTube, often they are exposed to inappropriate sexualised, violent or racist language, which they then repeat in school. These instances can be reported to the authorities.

May I remind you that the **minimum** age for Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, TikTok, Wink and Instagram are all **13 years old** and WhatsApp **16 years old**. Games like Grand Theft Auto are **18+**

I would urge you to monitor closely your child's mobile phone, smartphone, tablets and computers to ensure that they are not involved in or being subjected to any form of on-line bullying or danger. Monitoring should be extended to their participation in on-line gaming and ensuring they are only playing age appropriate games. We are aware of some pupils using inappropriate language as a result of playing these games and communicating using the above sites.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all children to hand in mobile phones each morning, should they bring one to school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr. J. Bates  
Headteacher

