

24 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Online Safety and Use of Social Media

As you are aware, the use of social media and the Internet is part of everyday life for students and can have an extremely positive impact on them in many ways. It is vital, however, that we educate students, both at home and at school, about how to navigate the online world safely and use technology responsibly.

Recently, we have been made aware, by both students and parents and carers, of incidences of the misuse of social media, including the posting of inappropriate content, which have impacted on students at Weald.

Whilst the school will always investigate incidences of online abuse, bullying and misuse of social media in order to safeguard our students, we would like to remind you that responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media, or indeed use of technology in general outside of school, lies with parents and carers.

We would strongly encourage you to discuss issues around the use of technology, social media and the Internet with your child. I have attached a social media guide to this letter in order to support parents and carers in doing this. Further information and links to sources of support can also be found on our website [here](#).

In the event of your child encountering inappropriate material, or being a victim of online bullying or abuse we would encourage you to follow the steps below.

- Use blocking and reporting tools on social media, websites or devices in order to block and/or report the individual involved and/or report harmful content. Further information on how to do this can be found here: <https://reportharmfulcontent.com/>
- If necessary, report the matter to the Police on 101.

Weald will continue to educate students on the appropriate and safe use of the Internet and social media through PSHCE, curriculum lessons and form times. Our safeguarding and pastoral team are also available and can be contacted if you require further support.

Kind regards,



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