

# MAYESPARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head teacher: Ms E Davies



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## Social Media use outside of school

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to advise you of a few concerns that we have regarding children's use of social media outside of school during evenings and weekends.

There are several groups of pupils using social media to be persistently unkind about other pupils over platforms such as TikTok, Snapchat, WhatsApp and Discord. We understand that this has included both sharing unkind comments about pupils and sharing images or memes of the pupils. This is having a negative impact on the mental health of some pupils within school and is not in line with our ethos or values.

We are also aware that children are being influenced by the personalities and celebrities they see online. It is not difficult to imagine harmful or abusive behaviours being present on social media. What can be challenging to deal with is the presence of popular online personalities or influencers who become well-known and even famous for exhibiting this behaviour over online platforms. This is especially concerning when children and young people begin to view this harmful content online.

Online safety experts have recently received reports of children as young as 11 quoting online personality Andrew Tate at school, even resulting in acts of violence towards female peers. Boys at Mayespark are aware of this person and have shown us that they are influenced by his behaviour which is very concerning. Please see the links below for more information on this

Most Social media apps are for pupils 13 years and over. If you do allow your child to access social media, please make sure you are aware of what they are doing. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support. What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring their phones for the apps that are downloaded
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles
- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine
- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices. Including not allowing phones or devices to be used in their room after bedtime.
- Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing.

Whilst I appreciate there are some benefits of these forms of communication, many of our pupils are struggling to use them sensibly and getting upset when problems or conflict arise as a result of what is being shared.

We are asking for your partnership in dealing with this, as this is happening outside of school, and is having a negative impact on their lessons and time in school.

We have planned an e-safety event later this term which we will invite you to.

If you would like any advice on the meantime please do not hesitate to contact us or speak to your child's class teacher.

Yours faithfully

Ms E Davies  
Headteacher

