

Our Ref: PDE

Tuesday 23rd January 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: Raising awareness around the dangers of social media

We are writing to you today to raise awareness around the dangers of social media and how easy it is for a young person to very quickly become unsafe online. We have created a video parental section on our school website and we welcome all parents to view these videos. This can be found here [TDS Parental Safeguarding Videos](#)

We highly advise all parents to talk to your children about the risks associated with sharing images online. These images can be easily shared and can quickly spread beyond the intended audience, leading to embarrassment, humiliation, and even harassment. In some cases, these images can also be used for blackmail or other forms of exploitation. The sharing of nude and semi-nude pictures online, as you may be aware, is a growing problem amongst young people, and we want to ensure that our pupils are safe and protected.

The law says that creating or sharing sexual images or videos of a child under 18 is illegal, even if the person sharing is a child. This includes:

- sending sexual messages to a child
- a child taking an explicit photo or video of themselves or a friend
- sharing an explicit image or video of a child, even if it's shared between children of the same age
- having, downloading or storing an explicit image or video of a child, even if the child gave their permission for it to be taken
- sharing an explicit image or video of a child is illegal, even if it's shared between children of the same age. 'Sharenting' - or adults sharing a photo of a child to raise awareness is also illegal.

Whilst it's illegal for anyone to exchange nude or semi-nude imagery of a child, the legislation is there to protect children from abuse.

We are committed to working with you to keep our children safe and secure. The NSPCC <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> website is a great source of information.

Yours faithfully,



Mr P Dewes
Vice Principal

Mr S Strickland - Principal - BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

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