

6th February 2023

RE: Students' Use of Social Media

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware, we have a strict policy of 'not seen, not heard' when it comes to mobile phones and devices for students at the Academy. This is in force, from the moment they pass the threshold of the Pope St gate when they arrive in the morning to the moment they leave and cross that threshold again at the end of their day.

I am becoming increasingly concerned by some students in Year 7 who are misusing social media which is leading to some friendship issues.

One of our values is Respect and in our Student Code of Conduct, it is important that all students adhere to the rule '*we act respectfully to all.*'

I would like to remind parents of their responsibilities to ensure their child engages with social media appropriately and adheres to age restrictions of certain platforms. **If your child has any of the below on their 'smartphone' you should delete it as they are not old enough to have an account.** I have attached useful guides for parents regarding the major platforms, which also includes **the minimum legal age for accounts:**

[Snapchat](#)

[TikTok](#)

[WhatsApp](#)

[Instagram](#)

I have recently worked with the Brummie Mummie podcast to support parents by giving tips on how they can encourage their child to have positive social media habits. This is available through Spotify here:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0Y8UypbGSImzjdNoOxYqay>

We do have clear procedures on our website in relation to mobile phones where misuse is concerned and I advise all parents to ensure their child acts within the boundaries of the Code of Conduct and the law.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr J Barton - Headteacher