



Willingdon

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are becoming increasingly concerned about students' personal use of facebook and other social networking channels. We would like to encourage parents/carers to have an open dialogue with their sons and daughters to reinforce safe practice on line.

Students seem to be accepting strangers as their 'friends'. This week, we have discovered this even includes local business owners. Whilst this may be entirely innocent, we feel very uncomfortable that many students are allowing strangers or acquaintances to have access into their personal lives and the ability to view photos of themselves and other children.

We have also been notified by some students about inappropriate photos which some of their peers have put on line. Again, perhaps some guidance needs to be reinforced from parents and carers about the trail that is left through social networking. This will not disappear and could affect future college applications or success within the job markets. We have also addressed incidences this year where a student has sent a personal photo to another student and this has then been shared with other children without permission. This has inevitably caused undue stress and upset.

We mustn't forget the benefits that all of this new technology has brought us and how amazed and excited students are about the opportunities the internet brings. Therefore, this does need careful handling by us all to ensure students feel empowered to embrace modern society without putting themselves at risk. We have copied the below link to the NSPCC which gives excellent advice to parents on strategies you can adopt to support your children with the internet.

The school does deliver an in depth and rigorous e safety programme and we have a robust policy in line with county guidance. However, we will be seeking further information from students and yourselves on what we can do to support students further. If you do have any comments, please do email them through to srogers@willingdonschool.org.uk

We will make e safety an agenda item at our first parents' forum in the first term back.

Yours sincerely,

Miss E. Beer
Headteacher

[https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=GEN - Safety - \[BMM\]&utm_term=e_safety&gclid=Cj0KCQjwvezZBRDkARIsADKQyPmwfYpOBY6TusCf3Ee5z_o0nB9FF083IH9x9_IKtQGn8-go51Oizh4aAoV9EALw_wcB&gclid=aw.ds](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=GEN - Safety - [BMM]&utm_term=e_safety&gclid=Cj0KCQjwvezZBRDkARIsADKQyPmwfYpOBY6TusCf3Ee5z_o0nB9FF083IH9x9_IKtQGn8-go51Oizh4aAoV9EALw_wcB&gclid=aw.ds)