

8th March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been informed that a number of our Year 6 children have Instagram profiles even though the permitted minimum age to use the site is 13, according to the site's terms and conditions.

Our school is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the Internet and as such we feel it is our responsibility to raise this particular issue as a concern.

Websites such as Instagram offer amazing communication and social connections, however they are created with their audience in mind and in this case it is for teenagers and adults.

Instagram and other social media applications and communication devices, e.g. X-Box live, DS, Facebook and imessage are not used in school, and our Internet access is filtered to ensure that such sites are blocked.

We are of course unable to police what children post or view outside of school hours. **Parents are responsible for ensuring their children use these applications/sites safely and responsibly out of school, and for dealing with any issues or consequences that occur.** We strongly advise that you supervise your child when using such media to ensure their safety and wellbeing and also that of others.

As part of our curriculum, we do cover online safety and children have been informed of the dangers of using social media both in lessons and in assemblies.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and hope that together we can keep all the children in our school community safe and happy.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Eastwood

Paul Massey

Headteacher

Chair of Governors

