



$M+P=S$

*Motivation + Perseverance = Success*

7<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has come to our attention that there have been a number negative incidents surrounding the use of Instagram. The aim of this letter is to provide guidance and advice regarding the use of Instagram (and other social networks) with our children.

**Why is my child using Instagram?**

Children love media; sharing it and socialising with it on their phones. Children enjoy taking, cropping, enhancing, sharing and commenting on photos and videos.

**Why can using Instagram be a problem amongst children?**

The main concerns are typical of all social media: mean behaviour among peers and inappropriate photos or videos that can hurt a child's reputation or attract the wrong kind of attention.

**Does Instagram have a minimum age?**

***In compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, the minimum age to use Instagram is 13.***

Instagram doesn't ask users to specify their age, and there are many younger children who use the service, often with their parents' permission.

As part of the national curriculum, all children at Methley Primary School are taught about and discuss the importance of online safety in theme weeks and in their weekly Computing sessions.

In order for our children to remain safe and informed it is key that this is continued outside of school. We value your support in this matter.

For further information and guidance about the use of Instagram and other social networks, please visit the E-Safety page on our school website or visit the following helpful websites:

[www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org)

[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

[www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

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