



The Crossley Heath School

Head Teacher: Mr Dean Jones MA

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Safe and responsible online behaviour is more important now than ever before. Increasingly, companies are conducting online checks as part of their recruitment processes, and our children are at risk of damaging their future prospects if they post or follow inappropriate content. This could leave a lasting digital footprint that may be linked to offensive online activity, potentially affecting their chances of securing employment, achieving their goals, or progressing in their careers.

We are pleased to report that our students have shown maturity and respect in following the school's new mobile phone policy this year. We extend our thanks to all of you for your ongoing support in helping make this a success. However, we continue to encounter instances where some students are engaging with inappropriate and offensive social media groups. Recently, we were made aware of a TikTok account that shared a combination of unkind comments about both students and staff, alongside offensive language. Upon investigation, it was clear that some of our students may be following these groups without fully understanding the content they are engaging with. Some of these accounts pretend to be a member of staff, a official school account or use the school's name/pictures/logos as part of their name/icons. We consider these accounts damaging and fraudulent.

In response to this, we are taking three key actions to help improve online behaviour:

1. **Safe Online Behaviour Assemblies:** In the first week after half-term, we will hold assemblies across all year groups, focusing on safe online behaviour. A core message will be encouraging students to speak up if they encounter offensive or inappropriate content online and reminding them that our staff and safeguarding team are always available to support them.

2. **Updated Behaviour Policy:** We have made important updates to our behaviour policy. Following any offensive social media groups or following fake profiles of students, staff, or the school will now be considered a 'misbehaviour' and dealt with accordingly. Creating or sharing inappropriate social media pages will be considered a 'serious misbehaviour' with significant consequences. If a criminal offence has taken place, we will report it to the police also.

3. **Encouraging Vigilance:** This letter serves as a reminder to all students and parents/carers to regularly review social media activity. Please ensure your child is not following inappropriate or clearly fake profiles and report any concerns to us directly and the social media provider.

We also encourage you to use parental controls and periodically check your child's devices. Many apps, including Instagram, WhatsApp and Snapchat, regularly update their security features, which can sometimes expose children to risks, such as live location sharing, being added to inappropriate group chats, or hiding content through features like 'chatlock' or secret folders.

For further resources and advice on e-safety, please visit our school's e-safety webpage:
[\[https://crossleyheath.org.uk/parent-zone/e-safety-advice/\]](https://crossleyheath.org.uk/parent-zone/e-safety-advice/). Or <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/>

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr Chesters
Deputy Headteacher
The Crossley Heath School

