



St Sebastian's Catholic Primary School & Nursery

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Only my best will do; Be kind to one another

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Dear Parents/Carers

SOCIAL MEDIA ALERT

We regularly run workshops and advise our children on the importance of e-safety. Their safety is paramount and we try to put everything in place, in school to protect them eg firewalls and robust monitoring and filtering systems.

However, unfortunately we cannot continue to protect them once they are home/out of school.

This week an extremely serious social media issue has arisen. Some of our Year 5 pupils, whilst accessing and using social media (Instagram), were pursued by potential predators as they had chosen not to have adequate privacy settings.

It is alarming that they knowingly put themselves in danger, though really did not comprehend the seriousness of this or understand how vulnerable a position they were putting themselves in or the potential consequences.

It is YOUR responsibility as parents to be vigilant- to monitor your child's internet activity to protect them. The potential dangers of all social media cannot be underestimated. I repeatedly speak to parents who say they thought their children's privacy settings were set correctly-but later find this not to be the case.

If you as parents are aware that your child has been approached inappropriately on social media sites we advise you to contact the police.

Also if your child comes forward, as they are concerned about how they are approached, or by whom, or they come to tell you they may have made errors of judgement eg with privacy settings we ask that you commend them for their openness to you. After all, they may be in a situation where they need to feel that they can approach you or school about it.

Jacqui Mulligan

Head of School

