



## St Paul's C of E Junior School

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Headteacher: Mrs J M Taylor

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Dear Parents,

Our school is committed to promoting safeguarding and responsible use of the internet and as part of our curriculum, every child is taught about internet safety and regularly reminded of the dangers. Sites such as Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat etc. offer amazing communication and social connections but are created with an age 13+ audience in mind. Such sites are not accessible in school and our internet filtering ensures that they are blocked.

We appreciate that it is up to the discretion of parents as to whether or not they permit use of social media accounts outside of school. However, if a child's wellbeing is compromised, we will not hesitate to fulfil our statutory duty of care, which may involve the reporting of underage accounts.

An allegation has been made that one of our Year 6 pupils has set up and is using an Instagram account in another child's name, and that some of the messages sent from this account to other Year 6 pupils have contained offensive language and have been extremely unkind.

We are unable to police what children post or view outside of school hours but we strongly urge you to ensure you have the necessary safeguarding controls in place to guarantee your child's ongoing safety and wellbeing.

The following tips can help you:

- ensure your child accepts you as a 'friend' so that you can view their activity on social media sites;
- know which websites your child visits and show them the 'report abuse' and 'block sender' options so that they feel in control;
- remind them that comments, video and photos can stay online forever and texts and iMessages are easily captured, copied and forwarded;
- ensure they use password protection to keep their files and information safe;
- get them to regularly check and clean their 'friends' lists on sites;
- encourage them to talk to you about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable or if they feel bullied;
- urge them to keep evidence - not to delete bullying texts, emails or posts as callers and mailers can be traced;
- inform the police of any incidents of bullying via social media.

Please discuss with your child the hurt and damage caused by thoughtless internet use. The posting of inappropriate comments, photos or videos damages a child's reputation and attracts the wrong kind of attention. Subsequent posts reflect not only on the person responsible for uploading but also on those that share, tag or comment. Whether serious or light-hearted, intended to hurt or not, postings become part of the user's public image and sometimes a vehicle for online bullying.

On our website you will find a range of guidance documents for setting parental controls on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Snapchat, Xbox, iPhones and iPads. We have also included useful websites that provide additional information for parents about keeping children safe online:

[https://st-pauls.eschools.co.uk/website/e-safety\\_supporting\\_your\\_child\\_using\\_the\\_internet\\_social\\_media/145161](https://st-pauls.eschools.co.uk/website/e-safety_supporting_your_child_using_the_internet_social_media/145161)

Hopefully by working together we can keep every child in our school safe and happy.

Your faithfully,

**Mrs J M Taylor**  
Headteacher



