

# DOTHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Severn Drive, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 3JB  
Telephone 01952 386870



**Head Teacher: Becca Butler**

7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you regarding a concern about children using social media.

Recently, a great deal of leadership and teacher time has been taken up in trying to resolve issues that have been brought into school as a result of unkind behaviour via social media at home. We understand that some of this behaviour has involved pupils sharing unkind memes, messages or images. In the more extreme cases, these messages have gone beyond being unkind and have caused considerable upset and worry.

It is important to note that sending abusive or threatening messages is a crime and, from the age of ten, children are deemed to be criminally responsible for their actions. As such, they could face prosecution for the messages they send if they cause alarm or distress to others.

Most social media platforms have an age rating of 13 years or older, which means that they are unsuitable for primary-aged children. The instances that we have been dealing with are proof that most children do not have the maturity that is required to use these sensibly and responsibly. Furthermore, we are aware of group chats with large numbers of people involved. These group chats put your children at risk - strangers can be added to the group and these strangers will be able to contact your child.

At school, we educate the children about using the internet and social media responsibly through our computing curriculum, PSHE curriculum, Safer Internet days and assemblies and we would respectfully ask that this is supported at home. Although I appreciate the benefits that social media can bring, I would implore you to consider the access that your child has to these apps and the monitoring of their use.

As a school, we have a duty to keep children safe and this extends to beyond the school day. With this in mind, if we become aware that your child is using inappropriate apps and we believe that this poses a risk to your child, we will report this to Family Connect.

If you're unsure of ways to protect your child and keep them safe online, here are some websites that can help support you:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Alternatively, please ask us for us help. We might not know the answer straight away, but we will do our best to try to find a solution.

Kind regards

Mr Kirkpatrick  
Assistant Headteacher / Online-Safety Lead



E-mail: [a3368@telford.gov.uk](mailto:a3368@telford.gov.uk)

Website: [www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.dothillprimaryschool.co.uk)