Safeguarding News: December 2022

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. That is the mantra that we have at Two Rivers High School, and everyone has a good level of knowledge and understanding regarding this important topic. We keep the child in focus at all times.

The safeguarding team currently comprises of: Derek Tuck and Heather Barnby (Designated Safeguarding Leads, DSL), and Gail Brindley and Yvonne Edwards (Deputy DSL).

Derek Tuck	Heather Barnby

Within this newsletter, and with the potential of new devices given to students as presents for Christmas, we would like to discuss keeping safe whilst online.

Online-Safety

The impact of social media can be amazing – the promotion of events, the re-connection with friends from times past and the sharing of memories – are all fantastic ways of communicating. Unfortunately, social media is not always used in such a positive way and there have been occasions when the inappropriate use of social media has involved several students. We would like all of our parents to be aware of this so that you can support your child to use social media appropriately and avoid any future upset. Below is, what we hope, will be seen as some helpful advice.

What is social media?

Social media is via a range of online communications channels which are dedicated to community-based input, interaction, content-sharing and collaboration. This implies a positive method to communicate with friends, and on many levels, it is. Unfortunately, there are times when social media is not used appropriately. In those situations, it is important that the user knows the laws that are in place to protect victims:

- Malicious Communications Act 1988: electronic communications which are indecent or grossly offensive, convey a threat or false information or demonstrate that there is an intention to cause distress or anxiety to the victim would be deemed to be criminal.
- Communications Act 2003: electronic communications which are grossly offensive or indecent, obscene or menacing, or false, used again for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety to another could also be deemed to be criminal behaviour.

The laws support the victim. They are also based upon how social media is used and how the victim feels about what has been said, written, or uploaded.

It is also really important that our students know who they are communicating with, should they engage with others online. We would always strongly recommend that online accounts are kept private rather than being open to the public, and that friends are only accepted if the student knows the person in real life rather than knowing of them. Below are some questions to consider about accepting someone as a friend:

Who are you communicating with?
Do you know?
Do you really know??
Have you met them?
If you know someone...
who knows someone...
who knows someone.....
it doesn't make them your friend...

Many of our students will also upload pictures to their social media accounts. Pictures can be fun, but can also be saved and changed by others. Our advice regarding uploading pictures is:
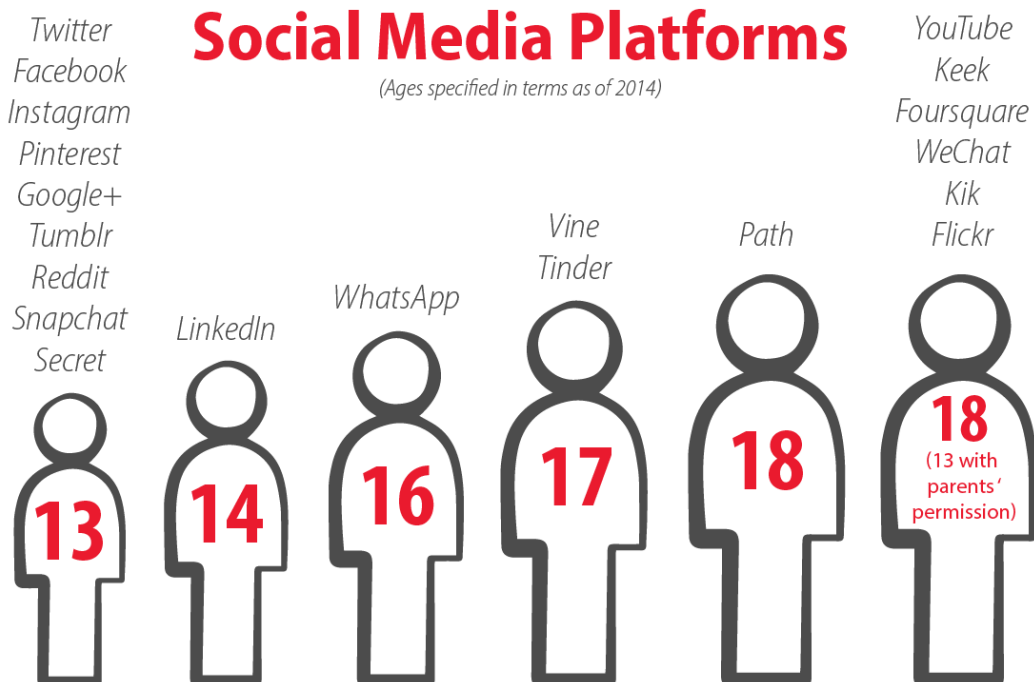
- Only upload pictures that you'd be happy for a parent to see (the internet is a public place)
- Don't post pictures of you or your mates wearing school uniform (this lets people know where you will be)
- Tick the "no pic forwarding" option on your settings page – this will stop people forwarding your pictures to anyone without your consent

Do you know the Age Restrictions for Social Media Access? (From www.actionforchildren.com)
Please be aware that allowing your child to access social media sites and apps before the required age, an incorrect date of birth would have been added. This can cause significant issues later on when your child becomes '18' and leaves them vulnerable.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

(Ages specified in terms as of 2014)

action for children

Twitter
Facebook
Instagram
Pinterest
Google+
Tumblr
Reddit
Snapchat
Secret

LinkedIn

WhatsApp

Vine
Tinder

Path

YouTube
Keek
Foursquare
WeChat
Kik
Flickr

13 **14** **16** **17** **18** **18**
(13 with parents' permission)

Our overall advice is:

1. What you put on social media sites is there forever (even if it is deleted, it can be traced) so do not add anything you may regret.
2. Consider the information you share - you don't know who your friend's friends are… or your friend's friends' friends**…**
3. Be aware that information on your profile could potentially be viewed by anyone, including future employers.
4. Consider you photo – what information does it give about you?
5. Understand the meaning of 'joint enterprise' (by not acting, even if you are not the person posting something, but you have 'liked' something, then you could also receive consequences).
6. Be aware that university admissions and employers WILL check your internet activity.
7. Issues can be reported via the thinkuknow site using ClickCEOP.

Visit our website for guidance, reporting functions and more.

Online Safety Support - Two Rivers Federation (tworiversschool.net)

Pupil Zone - Two Rivers Federation (tworiversschool.net)