



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

3 April 2025

Secondary – Online Safety



**THE
HESSLE
ACADEMY**

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Dear parent/carer

We have been made aware that many of our Year 7 students are using apps such as Tiktok, Snapchat and WhatsApp to communicate with peers outside of school. While most of the time these are positive interactions, we are aware that there has been an increase in students using social media inappropriately.

Considering the issues that have been brought into school, we politely ask all parents/carers to closely monitor their child's use of these apps. There have been instances where second accounts have been created so parents are not able to see the online activity.

We recommend that:

- You check our child's phone and online use weekly and talk about anything that you/your child may be concerned about
- If your child receives an unpleasant message/post, block, report and delete the contact/number who sent it (even if this person used to be a friend)
- limit screentime to the national recommendation of 2 hours per day and avoid screentime an hour before bed as not to disrupt healthy sleep patterns
- ensure your child does not share personal information such as their phone number or address in their bio
- do not accept friend requests from people they don't personally know
- create or be part of large groups/sharing platforms such as TikTok live

Below are some useful websites which can give parents advice and guidance on helping their child navigate social media.

Keeping children safe online: [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

Parents A-Z: [Social Media & Mental Health | Guide For Parents | YoungMinds](#)

Gov.uk Online guidance: [Child Safety Online: A practical guide for parents and carers whose children are using social media - GOV.UK](#)

Social Media Age Restrictions



You can also download a parent app which helps you monitor your child's phone use; Google family link, Norton Family and Qustodio to name but a few.

If you need any support or have any queries, please contact the year team on ho7@hessleacademy.com or via your child's tutor.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Mr V Groak
Headteacher