

Tuesday 30th November 2021

Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to you today to bring your attention to an issue that is affecting all schools nationally at the moment. Please see the information below from Redbridge Schools – Safer School Police.



There have been a number incidents in various schools where school children have been posting malicious information about school staff on social media platforms such as TikTok. This may include falsely accusing them of criminal offences involving children. Obviously, this is very distressing to staff and their families.

Can you please remind your child that this is a criminal offence under the Malicious Communications Act 1988:

‘Where a person sends a letter, electronic communication or article of any description which conveys a message which is indecent or grossly offensive, a threat or information which is false and known or believed to be false by the sender’

So even if a child writes something about a member of school staff which is false or grossly offensive ‘just as a bit of fun’ or as a rumour and then posts it on social media – they commit a criminal offence.

The child may then be at risk of permanently excluded and/or prosecution.

As your safer schools police team, we work hard with your school to avoid school children becoming excluded or criminalised, but sometimes where the level of harm or distressed caused is so severe we have little choice but to follow these routes.

Please speak to your child regarding the sensible use of social media. Consider also using parental software to restrict what they can access and monitor where appropriate. We would also advise consideration to not allowing your children to have access to social media in their bedrooms so that this remains a safe space and reduces the opportunities to misuse social media.

If your child does genuinely suspect any adult (school staff or otherwise) of committing criminal offences then they must report this to either a senior staff member, or the police. They can also confidentially speak to Childline or report crime anonymously via the Fearless website.

If you would like to speak further about this I am happy to be contacted via Adam.Richmond@met.police.uk or please speak to your local school’s safer schools officer.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and supporting the academy with ensuring that your child conducts themselves appropriately online at all times.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morgan Haines', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Morgan Haines
Principal