

December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to bring to your attention our concern regarding inappropriate use of social media.

As parents and carers, it is your responsibility to monitor your child's online behaviour. Most social media sites, including Snapchat, WhatsApp, TikTok, and Instagram, have a minimum age limit of 13 years. Year 7 pupils are below this age, and their use of such sites is in contravention of their terms and conditions. Inappropriate use of these sites can cause disruptive and damaging harm to individuals and the wider school community.

Instances of unacceptable use of social networking will see strict sanctions applied in line with our Behaviour Policy. This includes, but is not limited to, cyberbullying, sharing inappropriate content, or using social media in any way that causes harm or disruption.

To ensure this behaviour stops, we encourage you to take action by:

- 1. Active monitoring:** Check your child's devices regularly to review the apps they use and the content they may be able to access or share.
- 2. Reinforce age restrictions:** Remind your child that they are not permitted to use platforms that require users to be aged 13 or older.
- 3. Establish clear expectations:** Discuss the importance of respectful and responsible online behaviour.
- 4. Make use of parental controls:** Use privacy settings and parental tools to monitor and restrict inappropriate content. Ensure all accounts are set to private.

Additionally, we remind families of our '**See It, Hear It, Lose It**' No Phones Policy when inside the Academy grounds. Phones should not be seen or heard during the school day. If a phone is used inappropriately, it will be and can be confiscated by any member of George Eliot Academy staff.

We thank you for your cooperation in addressing this issue without delay and ensuring that your child uses the digital world in a manner that is safe, respectful, and appropriate for their age.

If you require any further advice or would like to discuss any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mr Luke Bolton and Mrs Cawthorne  
Year 7 team



**Principal:** Mrs H Zakary

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