

The Warriner School

Responsible - Respectful – Ready

A member of The Warriner Multi
Academy Trust

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Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

I am writing to clarify the school's approach to the misuse of social media. We have witnessed a recent rise in the misuse of social media and chat group platforms by our young people.

As you are aware, as a school we have introduced Yondr as a direct result of our growing concerns about the negative impact inappropriate use of social media can have on young minds. Therefore, we try every day to minimise incidents involving phones and cyber bullying by using our Yondr system. Thankfully for most of our students, this has been a positive addition to the school and for 6.5 hours a day, the children are not engaging with phones.

If any aspect of ICT is misused in the school or in using our equipment, we will identify and address this misuse. Fortunately, this type of misuse is incredibly rare, and this is helped by the fact that students are not able to access any social media sites on our network.

Indeed, most of the inappropriate use of the internet is done from home or on students' mobile devices during evenings, weekends and holidays. This makes it very difficult for schools to investigate and take appropriate action. The responsibility for monitoring a child's use of social media, or indeed the internet in general, must lie with parents/guardians. We strongly encourage you to discuss issues around this with your child. It is also worth noting the age limits for Facebook (13+ years), Instagram (13+ years), WhatsApp (16+ years), Snapchat (13+ years) and TikTok (13+ years).

If your child is the victim of inappropriate use, then we strongly recommend that you, as a parent/guardian, report the matter to both the social media service and to the Police. However, to support you and your child the school will:

- Continue, through PSHE and assemblies, to educate students of the dangers of inappropriate use of the internet
- Continue with Yondr and all (Years 7-11) our students' phones are placed and locked in Yondr cases between 8.30 am and 3pm
- Continue to monitor the use of any form of ICT in normal school hours and the use of the school email system at all times, and will deal with anything deemed inappropriate
- Refer anything that we believe could be defined as, or could potentially lead to, a Child Protection issue to the appropriate external agencies



- Continue to support parents with advice on how to tackle inappropriate use either by their own child or others

I hope you have been able to enjoy this run of extended Bank Holiday weekends – now we just need the sun to come out.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Nicholls'.

Sharon Nicholls
Head of School