



Dear Parent

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, my name is PcsO Ria Ware and I am a Police Community Support Officer and I work with Primary Schools in Sandwell. As part of my role I undertake work within the schools and regularly conduct inputs to students about various topics involving safeguarding.

I have conducted an input at your child's school relating to safer use of the internet. Including using it for the wrong reasons and the consequences of this.

I have discussed with all of the students the age restrictions of the social media apps they use such as Snapchat, Instagram, Tik Tok, WhatsApp and others. Currently this stands at 13 and 16 for WhatsApp. We have also discussed the consequences they can face if they do not use the sites responsibly and use them to bully others or share inappropriate content.

We also discussed online gaming including Roblox and Fortnite and the issues they face playing online, especially with people they do not know.

They have all been challenged to remove people from their platforms that they have never met in person. Friends are not friends just because they send you a request or add you to a group

I fully appreciate the importance of social media in a young person's life but it is also important to remember that if they misuse it there could be further consequences. I would encourage you as a parent to check your child's phone on a regular basis to make sure that what they are viewing and sending is appropriate so they do not find themselves involved in a situation which could end up being dealt with by myself or a colleague.

If you have any concerns or wish to discuss further please feel free to contact me.

Regards

Ria

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