



08 February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Safer Internet Day 2022 – All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively.

The safe use of social media can be a platform for positive change and provide the opportunity to stay in contact with each other, however, we should also be mindful that these platforms pose a risk to users and can quickly turn into a very negative experience.

There is the opportunity through all forms of social media to share yours or others' views and opinions in a rapid fashion which can quickly feel unmanageable to the original user. There is also occasionally the lack of understanding from users that once something has been 'posted' to a social media platform it can be deleted. It is too often the case that once something has been shared the speed at which this is 're-shared' means the original author has lost the ability to remove their original shared views.

I would like to take the opportunity to reinforce the importance of thinking about anything we post on social media and the potential impact this could have on ourselves and others. I feel it is important to remember what the internet was initially created for, the 'World Wide Web' was an initiative for a global space to share views which forever leave a footprint for other users to access.

What we post online is forever logged in this medium and this must be remembered, especially for young people who could have their future opportunities impeded on by something they 'shared' during their younger years.

At Plymstock School we want to work in collaboration with parents/carers to provide education, support and guidance around the responsible and respectful use of digital technology and platforms, including social media sites.

It is important to remember the age groups social media sites are aimed at and the guidance for younger children not to be accessing them. These include:

WhatsApp – The minimum age is 16 for using this app.

Facebook – People must be at least 13 years old.

Snapchat – 13 years old

Tik Tok – 13 years old.

I have attached a link below to [internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org/), which is a really useful site for providing parents with advice and guidance for keeping their children safe online. <https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Yours sincerely

Mr J Ellerton
Designated Safeguard Lead

