



28<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Year 9 Parents and Carers,

**RE: Ongoing Concerns with Social Media Platforms; TikTok, SnapChat, Whatsapp and Instagram**

I am writing to let you know of some concerns that have been raised about alleged inappropriate content, comments and insults being made through popular social media platforms by Year 9 students.

We are aware that group chats are becoming problematic and causing confrontations to escalate on social media platforms. We are concerned that these will escalate in school and cause further incidents to take place. As well as this, it has come to my attention that many students' social media profiles are public which means they are completely accessible for others to view, browse and comment on without any accountability. This is causing an increase in nasty and inappropriate comments being made using fake profiles leading to further confrontations. At Woodcote High School we highly discourage group chats on any social media platforms as these often lead to problems that escalate quickly. Please encourage your child not to interact or accept invitations to join this group chat and ask them to block or report these groups if they are worried or upset by the content.

It is fundamentally important that if your child is using social media platforms that their account is private and being monitored regularly. Students should only be accepting friend requests of those they know. This will eliminate the ability for other people to make unwelcomed comments on their profiles which can lead to an escalation of multiple issues.

There are limitations to what we can do as a school to stop negative social media interactions, which is why we would greatly appreciate your support in ensuring your child is safe online and using any platforms responsibly. If you do continue to have ongoing concerns regarding social media interactions, we recommend reporting these on these platforms and escalating this to the police where necessary.

I have included the link to the section of the school website that offers much support in how to keep students safe online. Please make sure you are utilising this information.

<https://woodcotehigh.org.uk/safeguarding-and-wellbeing/>

Many thanks for your continued support with Year 9.

Yours Faithfully

Miss Foley  
Head of Year 9