

23rd September 2021

Ms J Palmer BSc, MA, MA, NPQH
Principal

Dear Parent/Carers

Re: Online Safety Social Media

Online Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at Meadowfield School. We can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you to ensure that online safety messages are consistent and that all members of the community behave safely and appropriately online.

Unfortunately, it has been brought to our attention that some parents have been using Meadowfield School Parents and Carers Chat Facebook page and Sittingbourne Gossip Facebook page as a forum to complain and be abusive about Meadowfield School, members of staff and parents.

Whilst we are all entitled to have our own views and opinions, we would like to ask that all members of our community consider how this may be misunderstood or misinterpreted when shared online and the possible impact and consequences of these actions.

While we continue to raise the profile of online safety, we need the help of the whole community to support us in keeping our wider community safe online. It is important that all members of our community understand that the use of technology (including social networking, mobile phones, games consoles and other websites) to deliberately threaten, upset, harass, intimidate or embarrass someone else could be viewed as cyberbullying or harassment. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as bullying in the real world and is not tolerated at Meadowfield School. We take all instances of cyberbullying or harassment involving any members of our community very seriously as we want all members of the community to feel safe. Posting threatening, obscene or offensive comments online can potentially be considered as a criminal offence and can therefore have serious consequences. Should a member of staff be named on social media, this will be considered a serious offence.

As always, we encourage any concerns or complaints to be made using the correct and official channels, so we can work better together to help resolve any concerns that parents may have. The complaints procedure, anti-bullying policy and other relevant policies (such as behaviour or child protection policies) are available online via our website, <https://www.meadowfield.kent.sch.uk/> or upon request at the school office.

I would like to ask all parents to think carefully about the information and comments they post online. As responsible adults it's important that we all consider the potential impact and implications posting such content may have on you and your family as well as other members of the community. I would also like to remind all parents about the need for us all to work in partnership to promote responsible internet use. Your role in setting a good example of positive and responsible online behaviour for your child is crucial. If parents wish to discuss this matter further, or have any other online safety concerns then please contact Jill Palmer, Principal, office@meadowfield.kent.sch.uk. Many thanks in advance for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Jill Palmer, Principal



Roberta Kane, Chair of Governors