



De La Salle School

Headteacher: Mr P Norris L.LB (Hons), MA, NPQH

24th May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

With social media an established and often beneficial feature of many young people's lives, I write to advise you of our position regarding online exchanges during times we are not in loco parentis that have potential to compromise wellbeing. A number of other local schools are adopting a similar approach.

Whilst the majority of students use social media responsibly, their online interactions characterised by the same sensitivity and respect with which they invest exchanges in person, we are occasionally advised of unrest involving a considerable number of students that can sometimes extend beyond our community.

Despite extensive effort within and between schools, it can prove impossible to determine the extent of any individual's involvement. We ask students to block accounts from which they receive unpleasant comments and report them to the relevant member of staff via the established school channels.

We also advise that students set profiles to maximum privacy and deny access to unknown accounts, and that they be mindful of the potential implications of sharing images of themselves or others. Our ability to resolve situations is compromised where they have not adhered to this advice.

Our authority does not extend to influencing the age at which parents choose to allow their children social media, nor to ensuring all interactions are respectful. Whilst we welcome being informed of unrest occurring during evenings, weekends and holidays, and can implement measures to ensure children are safe within school, our influence does not extend to times that children are not within our care.

Faithful to the principle that students must feel safe, secure and supported if they are to fulfil their potential, we will always address unrest that occurs within the bounds of our authority. We advise that parents maintain interest in their children's online activity and regularly view their social media accounts, advising of the legal responsibilities and providing guidance where necessary.

Thank you for your support. Please contact your child's tutor or Head of Year if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Norris
Headteacher