



Pensby High School

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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

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Dear Parents and Carers

As a school we are very aware of the need to support our student's around their use of social media and all forms of ICT. We provide learning opportunities around how to keep safe in ICT itself, PHSE, assemblies, and form tutor activities. However, we regularly see incidents involving our students, where they leave themselves incredibly vulnerable. We do have occasional bullying that takes place outside of school involving inappropriate use of social media and we try to work with parents to address this behaviour. However, what is particularly concerning is how often we see students opening their social media accounts to complete strangers, or 'friends', in the mistaken belief that this is safe.

A number of students have expanded their 'friends' to much further afield than the Wirral. This has on occasion led to situations where the students themselves have been placed into situations where they have been at risk of harm. There are, unfortunately, some unpleasant people in this world and sometimes they find a way to make contact with our children.

On every occasion we become aware of potentially inappropriate contact, we inform appropriate agencies, parents and carers. It is a very fine line we tread as parents as our children move from childhood to adulthood, but there have been a number of occasions recently when we have had to talk to parents about strategies to keep their children safe on social media. Can I please ask that you talk at home about how to keep safe online, if you haven't already. Advice and ideas can be found at www.ceop.police.uk

The chances of anything untoward happening are relatively low but awful to think about. If there are any concerns we can help with, please contact school via form tutors or Heads of Learning and we will help in any way we can.

Yours sincerely

Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher