



Hillstone Primary School

Head Teacher Mr J. King

Deputy Head Mrs V. Chudleigh

27th June 2024

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you to request that you are vigilant in monitoring the use of your child's phone when accessing social media. Recently we have had several children in Year 5 coming into school unhappy and upset about Snapchat groups and conversations. By way of reminder, Snapchat should not be used by children under the age of 13 years in order to safeguard them. Responding to incidents that have taken place on phones in the evening takes up a large amount of teacher time. This time detracts from the focus of our work in securing academic progress for your child. As such, I ask that you check your child's phone today, remove Snapchat from the device and monitor their access to any other social media forums.

It may seem harmless allowing your children to use SnapChat, as 'everyone else is on it!' However it has an age restriction of 13years old for good reasons...

- Both Snapchat's Discover section and its overall search function can expose kids to **inappropriate or harmful content**
- As with any social media platform, there is always a risk of **cyberbullying** on Snapchat.
- The pressure to maintain a certain image or persona on social media can be **psychologically taxing and even damaging for kids and teens**. The emphasis on fleeting content, visual communication, and maintaining Snapstreaks could lead to feelings of **anxiety about personal appearance**, social status, and many other factors that can contribute to **self-esteem issues** and more.
- The Snapchat format could potentially be **exploited by online predators** who might use the app's features to connect with unsuspecting minors, manipulate them, and attempt to engage in inappropriate conversations or behaviour

Pupils are able to bring phones in when they reach year 6; any phone with non-age appropriate apps will not be permitted next year.

Kind regards,

Mr J King

Head Teacher



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