



7<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

## Unacceptable Social Media Behaviour

This week we have dealt with an anonymous Instagram account that has appropriated images of staff and used them in a defamatory manner. We have reported the account to the police for further action. Whilst as teachers we do have relatively thick skins and accept a semi-public profile, it is unacceptable for anyone, pupil or parent, to have their image used in this manner. I would like to make it clear that any pupil found creating social media in this manner will be subject to school sanctions up to and including exclusion. Other pupils who choose to follow such sites will also be asked to account for their actions, and may also be subject to school sanctions.

Last half term we had an excellent presentation from PC Lee from West Mercia police about online safety and responsible behaviours. He will also be talking to each year group in the school about online behaviour and the law in the coming weeks. One of the key messages is for parents to engage with children about what is on their phones, and check that what they are doing is age appropriate – bearing in mind also that in law young people are children until they are 18. Please can I urge you to take this advice and open conversations with your child about their online behaviour and social media content. We know that a great many children are very responsible and polite users. However, the anonymity and ease of communication does mean that children are tempted to behave in ways online they would never consider while face to face.

We will continue to promote e-safety across the school through our Digital Lives programme. As a parent it can feel difficult to know and monitor this aspect of young people's lives. You can access further information and support through our website at <http://www.chantryschool.com/e-safety-advice/>. This includes links to advice about parental controls and the excellent Thinkuknow programme from CEOP. Please do take a look at what you can do to support your child to stay safe and be respectful online.

Yours sincerely

Andy Dickenson  
Headteacher