



# Bottisham Village College

Achievement through Inspiring, Caring, Enriching

Principal: Mrs Jenny Rankine M.Ed LLCM

Lode Road, Bottisham

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Tel: 01223 811250

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DFU/bg

February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

## Online Safety Concerns

Summary of action(s) required	Dates
Please read info below.	ASAP

I am writing to you with a matter of considerable concern that requires your immediate attention and action. Over recent weeks, we have observed a troubling increase in incidents involving students engaging in inappropriate online behaviour. This includes, but is not limited to, body shaming, orchestrating confrontations within the school premises, adding peers to group chats without their consent, and the establishment of unauthorised WhatsApp groups.

It is important to remind all parents and guardians that the use of social media platforms comes with age restrictions, typically requiring users to be 13 years or older. These guidelines are not arbitrary but are designed to protect younger individuals from potential harms associated with online interactions.

As a school, our primary commitment is to the welfare and education of our students. However, the rising tide of these online behaviours is not only having a profound impact on the wellbeing of our students but is also consuming a significant amount of our staff's time and resources. Our educators are finding themselves increasingly diverted from their teaching responsibilities to investigate these incidents and provide support to affected students.

The role of parents in safeguarding their children's online presence cannot be overstated. It is crucial that you monitor your child's smartphone and internet use, ensuring they are protected from harmful content and interactions. This includes being aware of the social media platforms your child is using and understanding the nature of their online engagements.

We implore you to have open and honest discussions with your children about the consequences of inappropriate online behaviour, both for themselves and others. Educating them on the importance of respect, consent, and privacy in the digital world is imperative.

The wellbeing of our students is a collective responsibility, and it is only through our shared efforts that we can foster a safe and supportive environment for all. We urge



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you to take this message seriously and act promptly to address these concerns with your children.

Should you require any further information or support on how to effectively monitor and guide your child's online activity, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We are here to assist and support you in this vital aspect of your child's safety and education.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical issue.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr D Fullman**  
**Deputy Principal**

