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BREWOD CE (C) MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Specialist School for Science and Maths

29 January 2019

Dear Parents

Use of Instagram

In Friday's (25 January) Headteacher's Newsletter we printed some safeguarding information regarding pupils' use of Instagram outside school hours (I have attached this for you with this email).

Despite this, over the weekend, a group of pupils used Instagram to discuss and share some very concerning information and photographs. Some parents have notified the school regarding the content of these Instagram comments.

Yesterday (Monday) senior staff spent all day talking with the pupils who are members of this Instagram group. Later parents were phoned to notify them of the issue raised. Just a reminder that the minimum age for using Instagram is 13 years of age.

Can I please ask for your support in ensuring that if you permit your child to use any social media sites such as Instagram, that you are aware of what and how they are using them and what content they are seeing?

All year groups discuss E-Safety during the year. As part of the National Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 5 February, we will be reminding all pupils in school of ways in which they can stay safe and understand the dangers of social media sites.

On Wednesday 27 February, Vikki Bardon, ENTRUST Learning Technologies Advisor is running an E-Safety Workshop for parents and children and will be particularly focussing on Instagram and other social media websites (further details will follow). I do hope you will be able to attend this free after-school event during which you will be able to find out more and ask questions relating to keeping your child safe.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Best wishes

Mr D I Swift
Executive Headteacher



Safeguarding—Instagram

Staff have had a number of conversations with pupils over the last two weeks about the use of Instagram and in particular who is being added to 'group chats' and the comments that are being made.

According to the NSPCC's website, the minimum age for using Instagram is 13 years of age. However, they are aware that younger children access this site.

When the NSPCC spoke to children and parents about the site, 9% thought it was unsafe. They explained that:

- People you don't know can comment on your posts, message you or follow you.
- Sometimes you can see upsetting or inappropriate posts.
- People write mean or bullying comments on your posts.

There are many positive points about social media and it is now part of everyday society.

I would ask please that if your child does use social media sites such as Instagram, you are vigilant when they are using it and please ensure that they are not adding or reading comments that are inappropriate or likely to cause offence to other pupils or parents.

If you would like to read more information on the NSPCC's guide to Instagram please see the link below:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/instagram/#>

We will be holding our annual E-Safety Event for parents on Wednesday 27th February. A letter containing further details will be sent home shortly.