

St Gabriel's

Roman Catholic High School

17 September 2018



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Dear Parents/Carers

Following recent contact from GM Police, I am writing to highlight the dangers around social media.

The recent concerns are around an Instagram account '**i_know_radcliffe**' that encourages children to send their names and then their addresses are available to the account holder.

As you are aware, access to and use of social media is common these days and has become second nature to many of us. With this in mind, we wanted to provide some advice that is intended to help safeguard your children and yourselves as parents/carers.

Social media is a good example of how online behaviour can present e-safety risks. Users can express themselves with online personalities and chat and socialise with peers. They can publish and share multimedia content such as music, photos and video clips. If used inappropriately however, users can put themselves and others at risk.

Most social media sites set age restrictions. Facebook, for example, sets an age restriction of 13 years of age for users of its site. However, there is no verification and younger children often ignore the terms and conditions of use, unaware of the risks this might pose. Something to remember is that if your child is using false information to obtain an account on a social media site, other people can do so as well.

Most social media sites allow users to set their profiles to 'private' for viewing only by approved contacts. By not using these settings, users can put themselves at risk.

Please continue to monitor regularly your child's use of social media, as it is parents/carers responsibility to do so. As a school we constantly warn our children of the risk in using social media and e-safety through PHSE, assemblies as well as through the curriculum.

If you have any concerns about your child's use of social networking sites or would like support in knowing how to keep your child safe online please view the links on the school website under the Care tab. <http://www.st-gabriels.org.uk/care/>

Alternatively you can directly access information via www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Please highlight these dangers with your child.

Yours sincerely

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