



MAIDEN ERLEGH

SCHOOL IN READING

Headteacher: Will Graham

BA Ed (Hons), NPQH

- 81 Crescent Road, Reading, RG1 5SL
- 0118 966 8065
- meroffice@maidenerlegghtrust.org
- www.maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk
- @MESReading

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Dear Parent / Guardian

Misuse of Social Media

We have been made aware that some Year 7 students are misusing social media; specifically TikTok and Snapchat. The age limit for creating accounts on these platforms is 13 and Snapchat requires parental consent until the age of 17. It is our duty to bring these issues to your attention and to ask for your support in preventing further occurrence. Some of our students and parents who raised concerns, shared their phones with us and this is what has been noted:

- Students have been taking photographs / videos of others without permission and sharing them in their group chats
- Phones are being used very late at night
- Foul language and internet abbreviations for swearing are being used regularly in the group chats
- Anonymous threats have been made on TikTok
- Children are being repeatedly added to the chat group that they have already opted to leave

We expect students to behave more responsibly and maturely in their use of the technology that they are permitted to access and are concerned that they could be putting themselves and others at risk. I am sure that many of you will be as shocked and disappointed to discover this as we are.

We ask that all parents and guardians monitor their child's online behaviour and remind them of what is appropriate and what is not. There are many applications available to help monitor phone usage, should wish to use this method.

Moving forward we will look to educate students further in school on the use of social media and make our expectations clear to them.

If you have concerns about online behaviour, you can report it to CEOP online. ([CEOP Safety Centre](#))

Please find here a useful links for talking to students about online behaviour - [Online Safety Shareables - Ineqe Safeguarding Group](#)

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Hibbins

Head of Year 7



Aim High



Be Inclusive



Work Together