November 2025

Letter to Parents/Carers of Year 6 Children: Online Safety and Social Media

Dear Parents and Carers,

Supporting Our Year 6 Pupils Online

We have recently seen several incidents involving Year 6 pupils accessing social media and online chat platforms. This has unfortunately led to some conflict and unkind behaviour between pupils and adults on group chats. Other members of the group are witnessing this with some members feeling the need to respond.

While we know that digital platforms are a part of children's lives, primary-aged children – including those in Year 6 – are still developing the social maturity and skills needed to navigate complex online relationships. They are still learning to understand the dangers that come with using social-media and are easily influenced when it comes to sending or receiving messages, GIFS, videos and photos.

How We Support Pupils at Darlinghurst Academy

At Darlinghurst Academy, we are committed to preparing pupils for the digital world including highlighting the challenges and risks they may be exposed to: Our Wellbeing and E-Safety curriculum includes:
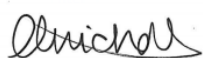
- Teaching about relationships both on and off-line safety
- Helping children to consider their online image and how they or others represent themselves
- Encouraging acceptance, respect, and understanding for all
- Making it clear that offensive, racial, or homophobic language is not acceptable

Working with families

You play a vital part in keeping your child safe online with the following avenues to support or monitor their online behaviour and safety:

- **Check app age ratings**: Ensure your child only uses apps and platforms suitable for their age
- **Monitor online activity**: Regularly review your child's use of devices and social media
- **Educate about online choices**: Show children age-appropriate platforms and how to chat responsibly online. Help your child understand the impact of their written, visual or spoken word.
- **Correct unsafe actions**: Step in and support your child to make safer choices if needed
- **Use parental controls**: Set up filters and restrictions on all devices
- **Learn about the risks**: The NSPCC website (https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/) has a wealth of advice on social media safety
- **Communicate**: talk to your child about their online activity, who they communicate with and how they behave online.
- **Keep us informed**: We can provide further intervention to ensure children feel emotionally safe whilst at school. This may include following up on issues in line with polices and practice.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Nicholls

Principal