



OAKINGTON MANOR SCHOOL
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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sylvia Libson OBE
Head of School: Ms Simrita Singh

11th May 2017

Dear Parent

Re: Internet safety and the use of Social Media

Oakington Manor Primary School is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such it is our responsibility to raise this particular issue as a growing concern, due to the increase in inappropriate and underage social media apps and sites such as OoVoo, Skype, Instagram, WhatsApp, Facebook, Snapchat, YouTube, Google+ and Musical.ly.

No primary school child should have their own social media account until they are 13 years old. As a school, we strongly advise that your child does not have their own social media account and that it should be removed where possible due to them being under aged.

We understand that it is increasingly difficult to keep up with the ways that our children are using new and ever changing technologies, however it is incredibly important to **monitor and supervise** your child's internet usage. It is very important to talk with your child about what they use the internet for and how they use it; making you aware of any possible dangers there may be.

Such dangers may include:

- Exposure to inappropriate language, games, picture and video content.
- Exposure to online predators leading to possible child protection and cyberbullying issues.
- Legal implications of children posting content of a sexual or abusive nature.

We cannot govern matters occurring out of school hours, but we **will** take action if a problem comes to our attention that involves the safety of our pupils, including reporting the use of inappropriate images of young people and inappropriate messaging to the police, as this is a legal matter.

At school our children have access to DB Primary. Within this environment they are able to create their own profile, email, blog, share pictures and videos; much like any other social media site. DB Primary provides a good training ground for using social media in a safe school-only environment; educating children how to use social media safely and responsibly in preparation for when they are old enough to use the more popular sites. For more information on keeping your child safe online please visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk, www.net-aware.org.uk and www.getsafeonline.org. It is only through a collaborative effort between parents and teachers that we will succeed in creating responsible and safe cyber citizens.

If you would like any further information please refer to the school's e-safety policy or your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Sylvia Libson

Mrs Sylvia Libson OBE
Executive Head Teacher

