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'A caring school where every child matters' (OFSTED)

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Dear parents

My teachers are finding that they are being asked to resolve more and more issues arising between children regarding social media usage out of school on a variety of different platforms.

As a 'non-user' of any form of social media myself I really struggle to see the fascination children have in not only using this but also to use it as a vehicle for being unkind to other children in their class or year group. We have had reports that children are regularly using social media at all hours during the week – children need a break from each other during the evening so that they can come back to school refreshed the next day, not be hampered and upset about what someone has typed into a device about them.

Added to that is the recommended minimum age for using some of the social media platforms which we have been made aware of, as follows and on the reverse of this letter:

- Facebook – 13
- Snapchat – 13
- Instagram – 13
- Musical.ly – 13 (some material maybe 18+ material)

Clearly someone is either falsifying their date of birth to have an account to use this media or a parent is creating an account for their children. From the information we have been given and evidence we have seen it is obvious that the children using social media are not mature or sensible enough to be using it. Also, if the children are using it now, what are they going to be doing when they are 13 or 16 years old? What will be left for them then?

Therefore we will now be directing all examples of abusive comments or unpleasant posts to the Warwickshire Police online safety unit and their child protection team. We will also be sending it to Warwickshire Children's Services who may want to take further action.

Children should not be using this media in the first place and they certainly shouldn't be using it as a way of abusing someone else in their year group. It is unacceptable behaviour which we will not stand for. If a child has an issue with another child they should let their teacher know and leave them to sort the issue out, not take it upon themselves to 'police' the problem via a computer screen, tablet device or mobile telephone.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Smith
Headteacher

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

(Ages specified in terms as of 2014)

Twitter
Facebook
Instagram
Pinterest
Google+
Tumblr
Reddit
Snapchat
Secret

YouTube
Keek
Foursquare
WeChat
Kik
Flickr

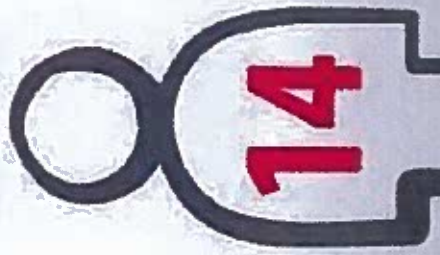
Vine
Tinder

WhatsApp

LinkedIn



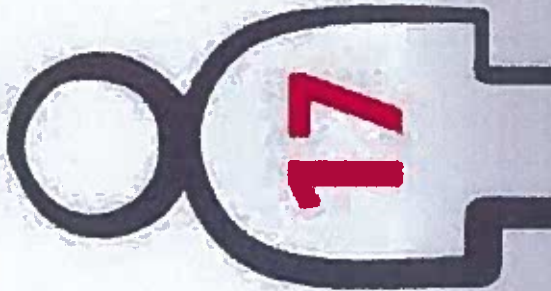
13



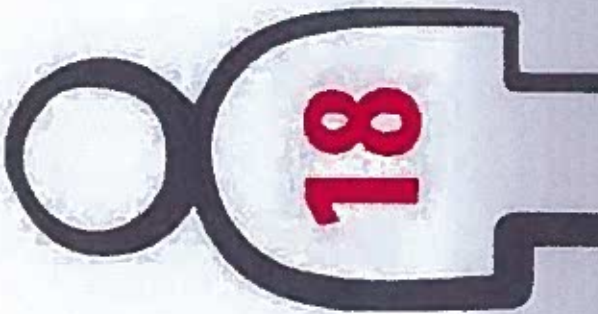
14



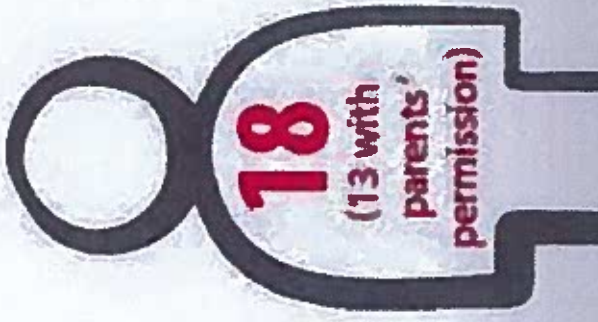
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(13 with parents' permission)