



Saint Vincent de Paul Primary School
167A Ligoniel Road
BELFAST
BT14 8 DP



Dear Parents,



Some VERY important information:

It has been increasingly difficult for us to deal with the amount of Social Media difficulties happening between the Key Stage Two pupils outside of school on mobile phones or home devices.

Pupils are reporting that they are using Apps such as Tick Tock, Snap Chat and Whats App.

It is reported that some pupils are sending /receiving unsavoury and abusive messages. Videos and texts. Some pupils are being unkind. Some pupils are creating groups then excluding others which can be a form of bullying. Many children are involved in these groups.

This **is not school business** and we are asking you as parents to take control of this situation. We do not have the time to deal with the fall out from these issues during learning time at school.

We teach children to TELL if they are upset or scared about anything online. We teach them the age limits for Apps and try to teach them safety rules. We cannot prevent or stop them from using home devices or phones.

- It is recommended for safety and maturity that pupils **do not** use these App's until they are 13 years old.
- If you have decided to allow your child access then please check their phone regularly.
- Please take responsibility from your child as they are too young to be given a free reign with a mobile device.
- Please be aware that children can delete messages and details sent to others.

We have never had so many issues with Key Stage Two pupils on social media before. We recommend that pupils have phones only from P7 and we are very concerned about the implications and worried for the safety of our pupils.

Please talk with your child and limit access to these groups. It is affecting their education and our ability to deliver it.

Many Thanks,

Mrs Mc Veigh



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