



Woodrush High School

An Academy for Students Aged 11-18

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Dear Parent / Carer,

Last week we sent information around the appropriate use of mobile phones to all our parents and carers due to increased concerns we were having around young people's reliance on their devices since the last lockdown.

As a school we see the value of children having a mobile device to support them communicating with parents and carers at the start and end of each day and thus we have a 'Bell to Bell' policy on the use of mobile phones.

Unfortunately, it has now come to our attention that several social media accounts have been set up by students that are set up to be defamatory about the school and especially members of staff within the school. The content associated with these accounts is a criminal act and has thus been treated as such. This has meant we have now contacted the police for them to investigate the content and users of these accounts.

Can we please ask parents to be aware of social media sites your child may be using and the content they may be sharing, liking, or commenting on? We are aware of all accounts that have liked, shared or commented inappropriately on posts which police may investigate further. This clearly does not match our school ethos, and we request these sites are no longer followed by our students.

Please refer to appropriate use of Home School Agreement and our IT policy. Relevant sections are outlined below:

- If any student or parent/carer of a child being educated at Woodrush High School is found to be posting libellous or defamatory comments on any social networking site or online forum, they will be reported to the appropriate 'report abuse' section of the network site. In this case this has taken place. The school will also expect that any parent/carer or pupil removes such comments immediately.
- In serious cases, such as this, the school will also consider its legal options to deal with any such misuse of social networking and other sites. Moreover, if any issue of cyber bullying is reported to the school where one child or parent has used a social networking site to publicly humiliate or negatively target a student or member of staff in the school then the school will approach this as a serious issue of school bullying.

If you or your child are aware of who has developed these accounts, please inform us at school. We actively promote staff welfare at Woodrush High School as well as the welfare of our students. Unfortunately, one or two students do not have the same regard and as a school we will show a zero tolerance to such deliberate actions.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Monk
Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher - Ms. N Rancins BSc (Hons), Grad. Inst. P. PGCE, NIPQH

Deputy Headteachers - Mr J. Barber BA (Hons), PGCE, Mr D. Monk BSc (Hons), PGCE

Assistant Headteachers - Mrs E. Lawson BA (Hons) PGCE,

Miss S. Taylor BSc (Hons), PGCE, Mrs M. Holtom Brown BEd (Hons) PGCE

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