

13th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers/Cranmere Community,

SOCIAL NETWORKING

As you may be aware we have had some concerns regarding Facebook/WhatsApp and other social media, pupil safety and adult behaviour. These concerns have for the most part been raised by parents. However, at times our staff raise concerns as do members of the community.

Cranmere Primary School has a strong policy on social networking sites and a duty of care to its community, pupils and staff. The policy is below and we thank parents for their support in this difficult matter. The policy is:

- We follow the age related guidance regarding social networking sites and where these are clearly being ignored, the Head will share this information with the site concerned (WhatsApp 16 years and nearly all others 13 years)
- Where our school is named on sites in a defamatory way or staff are named and discussed the school will take action up to and including legal action.
- The staff will work with staff from the other local schools and alert them to any issues that they feel may be defamatory against any school or member of staff.
- Any behaviour from an adult or child which may be regarded in law as harassment or bullying will be referred to the police.
- Where there are safeguarding concerns particularly where pupils are identifiable from comments, images or films we will inform social services and the police.
- The Head will discuss any incidents reported to her with the parent or child concerned. It will be up to the Head as to the action taken. This may include a written response to be kept on the child's file, a ban from the school premises, a referral to the police or legal action involving the schools' legal representatives.
- We will also take action against any member of staff who does not follow the school's code of conduct in relation to social networking sites.

Staff and Governors are extremely grateful for the excellent support that they receive from the vast majority of parents. They know that the success of our school is in large part due to the excellent level of support from our families. We know that some parents and children have had issues with these sites also and will welcome our strong stance.

As always, parents can speak to me if they have any concerns regarding this.

The school will continue to work with children, staff and families to support and develop the safe use of online social media resources.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K Daniels
Headteacher
Cranmere Primary and Nursery School

