



21 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## **SOCIAL MEDIA / SHARING IMAGES**

Yesterday, an assembly was held for Year 7 students. This has been recorded for all other year groups and will be played in tutor time this week to ensure all students receive the same support and advice.

The assembly focused on **malicious communications, harassment, threats of violence (online) and image sharing.**

It has come to my attention that some students are using social media inappropriately.

Examples of this are using unkind words, body shaming, creating pseudo images and imposing the faces of students onto the images and/or setting up group chats with the intention of harassing and bullying online. This, as you will appreciate, causes a significant amount of alarm and distress for the students and their respective families.

In addition, there have been some examples of sharing nude and semi-nude images.

The assembly has been an opportunity to educate students on the impact of such behaviour and more importantly the possible legal implications for those found to be involved. They have also learnt about the victim impact of such behaviour.

Whilst it is important to educate students, my priority focus is always on safety. The time yesterday also raised the importance of NOT **creating** an image that is indecent, having in one's **possession** (on a mobile) and sharing - **distribution** is a criminal offence. Unfortunately, there appears to be some students who are distributing naked and semi naked images of themselves or other children.

This is not a situation that can be dealt with via the Academy Behaviour Policy. This is a serious matter and will need to be investigated fully by West Yorkshire Police and can result in action being taken for **Youth Produced Sexual Imagery**.

Whilst Outwood Grange Academy is committed to dealing with such reported incidents, often these situations escalate outside of school (evenings, weekends). With this knowledge I am asking for the support of parents and carers to ensure that reasonable steps are taken to be as proactive as possible at home.

- Spot check phones (photos/group chats/messages).
- Set appropriate “privacy” settings.
- Restrict access to social media that isn’t age appropriate.
- Educate on nude/semi-nude images.
- Ask what has been learned in the assembly and discuss at home.

Many of the reported incidents are occurring on TikTok, SnapChat and WhatsApp.

Please let school know if you require any help on any of the areas covered or any support with concerns.

You will also see on the academy website parental leaflets to assist you in your conversations at home to establish digital ground rules. There is also a wealth of information for parents online including a family link App from google.

<https://families.google/familylink/>

West Yorkshire police would like to thank you for your support of this very important safety message and are happy to answer any questions you may have around this subject.

Your Safer School Police Constable is **PC 5155 Slee** based at

OUTWOOD GRANGE ACADEMY, POTOVENS LANE, OUTWOOD, WAKEFIELD

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**Police Constable Slee, Safer School and Partnerships Officer**

