



Alderman Peel High School

Alderman Peel High School
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2nd of October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Social Media Use and Age Suitability

I hope this letter finds you well. As we continue to support our Year 7 students in settling into secondary school life, we would like to take a moment to share some important guidance regarding social media use, online safety, and age-appropriate platforms.

Many popular social media platforms—including Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, and WhatsApp—have a minimum age requirement of **13 years old**. Despite this, we are aware that some students in Year 7 are already using these apps. While we understand that social media can be a way for young people to stay connected with friends, it also comes with significant risks, particularly for children who may not yet have the emotional maturity to navigate online interactions safely.

We strongly encourage all parents to:

- Regularly check their child's phone, ideally each evening, to ensure they are using it safely and appropriately.
- Discuss with your child the potential risks of social media, such as exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and contact with strangers.
- Set clear boundaries around screen time and mobile phone use, especially during the evening and overnight.
- Ensure privacy settings on any apps or accounts are set to the highest level of security.

We understand that conversations around technology can be challenging, but your involvement is key to keeping your child safe online. Monitoring their phone use is not about invading their privacy—it is a form of guidance and protection, especially while they are still learning how to make responsible choices.

We would like to remind all families that, in accordance with our school policy, student mobile phones should not be seen, heard, or used during the school day. Any student found using a phone during school will have it immediately confiscated. Students will then be required to collect the device from the school office at the end of the school day. We appreciate your support in reinforcing this policy to ensure a focused and respectful learning environment for all students.

Recommended Resource: InternetMatters.org

We encourage all parents and carers to visit InternetMatters.org. It's a trusted, UK-based resource that offers expert advice and practical tips to help keep children safe online. Whether you're dealing with screen time, social media, gaming, or cyberbullying, Internet Matters provides age-appropriate guidance to help you support your child's digital wellbeing.

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FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES



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Visit the site to explore free resources, how-to guides, and tools tailored for families.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a safe and supportive environment for all our students.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jagger

Head of Year 6 & 7

Alderman Peel High School

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