

Social Media Information

Social media usage brings about many challenges for young people, the rapid growth and usage of social media has significantly changed the pressures and influences on young people in a way that adults can't always easily comprehend. ParentInfo is a website designed for parents and carers by the government to help adults understand some of these challenges and the terminology used by young people on social network sites. You can access the website at <http://parentinfo.org/>

Here are some of the terms young people use:

KPC – keep parents clueless

IRL – in real life

LMIRL – let's meet in real life

420 – cannabis

GNOC – get naked on camera

POS – parent over shoulder

At Emerson Park Academy we aim to keep students informed about the negative issues surrounding social media use. Many form activities, assemblies, ICT and PSHE lessons are designed around these themes and all students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 have seen a workshop presented by the Arc Theatre Company. Year 7 students will see the presentation in summer 2016.

Some of the issues discussed with students in the workshop, form activities and lessons are outlined below.

- Every time you send a text or use social media technology your message or post is saved – even after you delete it the police can still retrieve it should they need to do so as part of a criminal investigation.
- Cyber-bullying is a crime, as is bullying itself, here is what the Metropolitan Police say: *“Some types of bullying are illegal and should be reported to us. This includes bullying that involves: harassment and intimidation over a period of time including calling someone names or threatening them, making abusive phone calls, and sending abusive emails or texts (one incident is not normally enough to get a conviction), also anything involving hate crimes.”*
- Your “net reputation” is an impression people form of you by looking up your “net footprint”.
- Try googling yourself or google imaging yourself, you might find that pictures or information comes to light about you that is in the past and is something you would rather forget. Many employers google people that apply to work at their company to see what they can find out.

- Cyber-bullying is making offensive posts and sending offensive messages over a sustained period of time (not a one-off). Whilst not all offensive posts are cyber-bullying they do cause a great deal of upset and worry among friendship groups.
- Think carefully before you post something – once it is said it is out there forever. Remember that in future an employer may look over your social media posts to see if you are the type of person they wish to employ.
- *“Sexting is when someone sends or receives a sexually explicit text, image or video on their mobile phone.”* If an adult sends a sexually explicit image of themselves to a partner, they are trusting that the person receiving the image will not share it with others. Sadly not everyone can be trusted and many adults find themselves humiliated by a naked image that just won't go away.
- Having sexting photos or videos on your phone or computer of people under the age of 18 is a crime because under 18s are seen as children by law. Therefore, if you have any indecent images or videos of somebody who is under 18 you would technically be in possession of an indecent image of a child – even if you are the same age. This is an offence under the Protection of Children Act 1978 and the Criminal Justice Act 1988.
- If a student takes a naked selfie and sends it to someone without being pressured to do so by anyone else, they have still created an indecent image of a child. In this situation students are likely to need some support. The Heads of House are very supportive in helping students but would much rather that students didn't get themselves into those situations.
- It is wise to keep changing passwords and not to use the same password over and over again.
- You have to be 13 to have a Facebook account – when students sign up to one they would be well-advised to put their age as in their 30s. This way their account will not attract unwanted attention.
- Students should not advertise their location – they should switch this setting off.