



18 March 2026

Dear Families,

## Ref: Impact of Online Behaviour in Key Stage 3

Over recent weeks, we have seen a significant increase in the negative impact of students' online activity taking place outside of school hours.

Issues arising from online group chats, social media, and gaming platforms are increasingly affecting students' school day. A considerable amount of time is now being spent addressing the consequences of online interactions from the previous evening, weekends, or school holidays, which is impacting learning, relationships, and students' wellbeing.

We have been contacted by a number of families who are understandably concerned about unkind or inappropriate messages their child has seen or received. We want to acknowledge how distressing this can be, both for students and for you as parents and carers.

While the school cannot control children's activities at home, or monitor content shared on personal devices outside of school hours, the impact of this behaviour is very much being felt in school. For that reason, this is a matter we must address together.

We are asking for your support in the following ways:

- **Parental oversight and controls:** Please ensure you are aware of the platforms your child is using, who they are communicating with, and the nature of those interactions. Where possible, we strongly encourage the use of parental controls and regular checks of group chats.
- **Open conversations at home:** Please talk with your child about respectful communication, the impact of their words on others, and what to do if they feel uncomfortable or upset online.
- **Encouraging safe choices:** Support your child to leave any group chats where unkind or bullying behaviour is taking place. Removing themselves is often the most effective way to reduce anxiety and avoid escalation.

This matter was escalated by classroom practitioners to me as a member of the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT), and this morning I spoke directly with all KS3 students. I made the following expectations clear:

1. **There is a growing issue with online unkindness in KS3.** Many students are not involved, and we thank them for continuing to demonstrate our values.
2. **Students must not engage in or contribute to unkind online behaviour.** If they see messages that make them uncomfortable, they should leave the group and seek support from a trusted adult.

3. **A small number of students have shared hurtful or offensive messages.** We recognise that behaviour is often a response to strong emotions such as anger, worry, or frustration. However, responding with unkindness or aggression is not acceptable. These actions have a real impact on others and are now significantly affecting the school environment.

Although these incidents are taking place outside of school, the resulting disruption, distress, and conflict are being brought into the classroom. This is affecting the calm, safe, and purposeful environment that all students deserve.

As a result, we are now taking a more structured and proactive approach:

- We will be working directly with the families of students identified as being involved, to agree clear strategies and expectations.
- We will support students to develop safer online behaviours and better emotional regulation.
- Where online behaviour leads to significant disruption in school, we will take proportionate and more formal action. This may include short-term alternative arrangements, such as time in our flexible provision, to safeguard the learning and wellbeing of others.

Our priority is, and always will be, to maintain a calm, safe, and respectful school where every child can learn free from unkindness and ongoing conflict.

This is a shared responsibility, and your support is essential. By working together - school and home - we can help our young people make safer, kinder choices both online and in school.

If you have concerns or would like advice on managing your child's online activity, please contact us and we will do our very best to support you or signpost you to specialist services.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Tobin  
Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead