



RESPECT, HONESTY, COMPASSION, TEAMWORK, KINDNESS, RESILIENCE

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Headteacher: Mrs D Hallam

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to address an important issue that has been affecting school life and our pupils' wellbeing. Recently, we have noticed a rise in conflicts among our children that originate from online interactions, particularly during gaming or on social media platforms. These disputes are being brought into school and having a negative effect on the positive and respectful environment we are striving for.

While we understand the role of online gaming and social media in today's world, it is vital to emphasise that managing your child's online activities and interactions is ultimately the responsibility of parents and guardians. The apps and games you permit your child to use, the amount of time they spend on these platforms, and the behaviour they exhibit online all play a critical role in shaping their experiences and the impact they have on others, now and in the future. We urge you to take an active role in overseeing your child's digital life.

We ask for your support in addressing this matter. Here are some steps we strongly recommend:

Understand the Apps and Games: Ensure the platforms your child uses are **age-appropriate** and align with the values you want to instill. Take the time to explore these platforms so you can better guide your child.

Set Clear Rules and Limits: Establish boundaries around screen time and online interactions. Encourage your child to balance their time with healthy, offline activities.

Monitor Online Behaviour: It is crucial to supervise how your child interacts with others online.

Address Issues Promptly: If disagreements or negative experiences occur online, resolve them before they escalate and impact school life.

We urge you to take an active role in overseeing your child's digital life.

The school is here to support you, but what happens online outside of school hours is primarily under your supervision. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of parental responsibility in guiding children to be respectful and thoughtful in their online interactions.

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If you need assistance or guidance in navigating these challenges, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school office who will pass on to a member of the SLT who will be in touch to support. By working together, we can help our children build the skills to be responsible and considerate digital citizens.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter

With Kindness

Mrs Hallam

Heage Primary School