

Hunslet Carr Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers of children in Years 5 and 6,

For the last few weeks, we have been dealing with significant issues around comments, photos and videos the children share on social media outside of school on sites such as SnapChat.

The issue generally happens when a group of children create a group and post photos or videos of another child, and upsetting and hurtful comments are made. At other times, images are added to the photo to make it embarrassing or hurtful to the child involved.

The photos are often screen-grabbed or taken without the child's knowledge and some of the children who have been targeted are not in these groups and don't know they are being talked about.

It is very upsetting to read or see messages about children we care about, and it is also upsetting to see which children are posting these messages, as we thought we had taught the children to be kind to each other.

The comments involve swear words, racist phrases, homophobic language, and unkind descriptions of people's appearance or the images that are added to the photos are often rude and very offensive.

What has shocked me and the staff most is the number of children involved **online** who have not once been in trouble at school **in real life**.

So, if you are reading this and thinking that your child can't be doing these things because they have never been in trouble before, please think again. There is something about social media that means children who would never say these things in the real world are taking part in horrible exchanges online.

I would advise everyone reading this letter to have a rule where you are allowed to see your child's phone, tablet or computer at any time.

Remember you are the adult and the person whose job it is to keep your child safe. Knowing that you might ask for their phone at any time might make them think twice about posting something hurtful, as they would not want you to see what they have said.

If you have any questions or concerns about Online Safety, please visit our website <https://www.hunsletcarr.co.uk/online-safety.html>, where you will find lots of hints and tips to help you keep your children safe.

Kind Regards

Mr Martin Lumb
Headteacher