



*together we aspire,
we discover,
we excel*

Lordswood Girls' School

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Headteacher: Mrs. K Cooney, BSC (Hons), MA

24th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is with regret that I am writing to you to inform you that we have seen an increase in the number of incidents involving the misuse of mobile phones and social media since the start of term.

We have a no-mobile phone policy operating in school, but we accept that, for many children, mobile phones represent an additional layer of safety as they make their way to and from school. If your daughter brings her phone to school, she will need to place it in her locker or, alternatively, if she does not have a locker, her phone must be turned off and handed in at reception each morning and collected again at the end of the day. After school, mobile phones must not be used by students until they have left the school site.

It has been brought to our attention that many students have accounts on the social networking platform, Instagram. Instagram is a photo sharing app designed for people aged 13 and over to post pictures and comment on them in a fun way. Unfortunately, it would appear that a few students under the age of 13 have generated accounts by falsifying their age. We have also been made aware that some students are using Instagram inappropriately to cause upset to other students.

I am sure that you will appreciate that the responsibility for monitoring a child's use of their mobile phone and social media outside of school hours lies with parents/carers. Please be aware that whilst we do our best to support parents and students when they have concerns around the misuse of social media outside of school, this does not fall within the remit of our staff. When serious issues arise such as online abuse we will always recommend that parents report their concerns directly to the police. Whilst the school is not always able to identify who is responsible for uploading inappropriate posts on Instagram, the police are able to do so if they believe that an offence has been committed.

No student deserves to be bullied or intimidated by anyone else, whether online or at school. At Lordswood, we are proud to be a community where students treat each other with respect and kindness. I would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to talk to your daughter at home about their social media use.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Millward
Assistant Headteacher