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7th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Social Media and Out of School Incidents

I am writing to address a growing concern about the use of social media by some children at Whitworth Community High School. Recently, we have noticed a spike in issues where students have been involved in online groups in which inappropriate messages have been written by children and sent to one another.

To help prevent further issues, please could I suggest that parents and carers take the following actions with your children:

- **Monitor and Manage Devices:** Please regularly check your child's phone, tablets, and apps. We strongly advise setting firm screen-time limits and collecting devices before bedtime.
- **Enforce the "Leave the Group" Rule:** If a weekend or evening group chat becomes unkind or toxic; insist that that your child removes themselves from the group.
- **Block and Report:** If your child continues to receive inappropriate messages, please use the platform's built-in tools to block the user and report the content.
- **Contact the Police:** If online abuse continues, contact the police even if this isn't something your child feels comfortable with. If the police require any further information, action, or support from the school to aid any ongoing investigation, we will, of course, oblige and cooperate fully.

I also want to address a current concern regarding how incidents outside of school are managed. Increasingly, school staff are being asked to resolve conflicts that take place entirely during evenings and weekends. The school cannot serve as the primary mediator for community or out-of-hours disputes, including issues relating to social media. However, please rest assured that if any online behaviour or safeguarding concerns spill over into the school day, disrupt learning, or occur on school grounds, we will intervene.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in ensuring a safe environment for all of our students, both online and offline.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher



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