



Sally Banfield

Headteacher

20th January 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

Re: Social Media Concerns

I am writing to share a concern that has been increasingly affecting our school community: the impact of events and interactions taking place on social media outside of school that are then carried into the school day.

As a SEND setting, we understand that many of our pupils navigate the world, with all its social and sensory demands, in ways that can make online interactions particularly complex. What may begin as a misunderstanding, joke, or comment made on social media can easily feel overwhelming or confusing for some of our children. When these online situations come into school, they can have a significant effect on pupils' emotional wellbeing, their sense of safety, and their readiness to learn.

In recent weeks, staff have spent considerable time supporting pupils who have been upset, worried, or dysregulated due to messages, group chats, or videos shared at home. Although we will always prioritise the wellbeing of our children, managing issues that begin outside school can take our team away from providing the tailored support and learning experiences that your children need and deserve.

We are very mindful that supporting children with their online lives can be challenging for families, especially when children communicate or interpret social media differently, or find it difficult to understand the potential consequences of what they share. Many of our pupils use social media

as a way to feel connected or included, and we want to work collaboratively to help them develop safe, positive habits online.

We kindly ask for your support in:

- talking regularly with your child about the messages they send and receive;
- monitoring, where appropriate, their use of apps, group chats, and social media platforms;
- encouraging them to seek help if they see something that worries or upsets them; and
- helping them understand that what happens online can sometimes have a big emotional impact when they come into school.

As a school, we will continue to teach online safety in a way that is accessible, personalised, and appropriate to pupils' developmental and communication needs. We will also continue to support them in understanding feelings, friendships, and relationships both online and offline.

It is important to say that the school is unable to support or sanction incidents that happen on social media outside of school. We will keep a record of incidents if you let us know about them and will support external agencies if you have informed and involved them.

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and care. By working together, we can help ensure that school remains a calm, safe, and nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Banfield', written in a cursive style.

Sally Banfield
Headteacher