CORNELIUS VERMUYDEN SCHOOL

Respect, Resilience, Responsibility

20 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carers

Re: Use of Social Media

Online Safety is an important part of keeping children safe at The Cornelius Vermuyden School. We can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you to ensure that online safety messages are consistent and that all members of the community behave safely and appropriately online.

Unfortunately, it has been brought to our attention that a small number of parents have been using social media as a forum to complain and/or be abusive about the school and/or members of staff/parents/children in the school community.

Whilst we are all entitled to have our own views and opinions, we would like to ask that all members of our school community consider how this may be misunderstood or misinterpreted when shared online and the possible impact and consequences of these actions. We have spoken to those parents/carers concerned and, whilst we can continue to raise the profile of online safety, we need the help of the whole school community to support us in keeping our wider community safe online. It is important that all members of our community understand that the use of technology (including social networking, mobile phones, games consoles and other websites) to deliberately threaten, upset, harass, intimidate or embarrass someone else could be viewed as cyberbullying or harassment. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as bullying in the real world and is not tolerated at The Cornelius Vermuyden School. We take all instances of cyberbullying or harassment involving any members of our community very seriously as we want members of the community to feel safe.

Posting threatening, obscene or offensive comments online can potentially be considered as a criminal offence and can, therefore, have serious consequences. Any complaints should be made using the correct and official channels, so that we can work together to help resolve any concerns that parents may have. The complaints procedure, anti-bullying policy and other relevant policies (such as behaviour and child protection policies) are available online via our website. Please can parents/carers be reminded that we have recently launched a new complaints form that can be completed either online or via hard copy in Reception.

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Headteacher: Mr I Hockey BA Hons MSc NPQH NPQEL

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I would like to ask all parents/carers to think carefully about the information and comments they post online. As responsible adults, it is important that we all consider the potential impact and implications posting such content may have on you and your family, as well as other members of the community. I would also like to remind all parents/carers about the need for us all to work in partnership to promote responsible internet use. Your role in setting a good example of positive and responsible online behaviour for your child is crucial. If parents/carers wish to discuss this matter further, or have any other online safety concerns, then please contact your child's Head of Year as a matter of urgency, or me.

Many thanks in advance for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Mr I Hockey
Headteacher

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