

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Internet safety and the use of Instagram

The Meadows Primary School is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such we feel it is our responsibility to raise this particular issue as a growing concern, due an increase in the inappropriate use of social media, in particular Instagram.

Instagram is online app which enables its users to take pictures and videos, and share them on a variety of social networking platforms. You are required to be at least 13 years old before you can create an account. Despite the age requirement, many under age children use this app. Though many may use it appropriately, we have had more frequent occurrences of inappropriate usage.

Though we cannot monitor this usage or stop the children from using it, we are promoting the safe use of these apps within school. After a visit to an internet roadshow, a PC from the Cheshire Constabulary noted that the new approach was not to tell children they could not use these apps, but rather to discuss relevant safety issues (e.g. privacy and the report features). This is something we do in school, but we would also like to reinforce this at home. This app should not be used in a negative way; as a school we have a duty to address any reports that are brought to us and take further action where necessary.

If you have any concerns regarding the use of social media and your child, please discuss this with a member of staff.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Parry