



ST. WILFRID'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Principal: Miss C Huddleston BA PGCE MBA

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Responsible use of Digital Devices and Social Media

Dear Parent/Carer,

Over recent weeks, we have seen an increase in the amount of issues raised where students have been using technology and social media in an inappropriate manner.

As an Academy, we carry out regular spot checks on iPads to ensure students are using their devices appropriately. We also discuss safe use of the internet and social media during PSHE days and in assembly time.

In order to help us keep your child safe, it is crucial that as parents you are discussing the use of your child's devices with them, as well as scrutinising the content saved upon them. We would ask that you regularly check the following things at home: -

- **Social media and messaging apps** – in line with our iPad acceptable use policy, no such apps should be used by any student, whilst in the Academy. Therefore, times of usage should be outside of Academy hours.
- **Games** – the installation of gaming apps should be kept to a minimum and must not be played whilst within the Academy.
- **Use of VPNs** – these are sometimes downloaded by students to bypass school internet filters and are strictly prohibited within the Academy. By downloading a VPN, a student can access apps and websites that would normally be blocked. You will recognise whether your child has downloaded a VPN by looking for the letters **VPN** in the top left corner of their device's home screen, next to the Wi-Fi symbol. Within the iPad you may also see apps such as **Dash VPN, Free VPN UK or Hexatech VPN**. If you see any of these apps downloaded, we would ask that they are deleted.
- **Camera roll** – we would ask that you regularly check your child's camera roll for any images or videos that could be deemed inappropriate. These include images of other students within the Academy, 'selfies' or images saved from the internet.

We also advise that the usage of your child's iPad is limited to a healthy time duration. As an Academy, we would only expect students to use their iPad for the checking or completion of homework for around 30 minutes per evening.

Should you require any further information or advice on keeping your child safe whilst online at home, please do not hesitate to contact us. Further information can also be found on our Academy website, under **Parent Zone -> iPad scheme**.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Yours sincerely,

John-Paul Fagan
Assistant Principal KS3

Alison Crompton
Assistant Principal KS4