



It has been brought to our attention via issues at another school that a person posing as a 17 year old male is requesting photographs and personal information from female students between the ages of 14 and 19 via Facebook, Instagram, KIK messenger etc. The school in question has reported this matter the Police.

We wish to take the opportunity to encourage you to have a positive conversation about your child's use of social media and the need to protect themselves from unwelcome and inappropriate contact. Should your child have any similar incident to that described above we would advise the following:

1. Preserve any evidence (screen shots or text messages, email or social media usernames etc.).
2. Report then Block the person via the platform (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc.).
3. Should you have serious concerns i.e. if the person is demanding images, asking to meet, sending material which is inappropriate you should contact the local Police using the 101 service. Be sure to let them know the age of your child and the nature of the activity.
4. Should the contact be of a sexual, harmful or threatening nature you can also report it to the Child Exploitation Online Protection Service (the CEOPS 'Report Abuse' button can be found on the school's website or by internet search) and an officer will get in touch with you.
5. Should the child be in immediate danger or at risk of immediate harm; dial 999

Most students, at some point, will get 'nuisance' contact via social media from people they do or do not know. This is best dealt with by reporting, blocking and deleting the person if the contact is abusive or, at the very least, reporting and 'muting' them if they are being repetitively 'unpleasant'. Students should also periodically 'check out and clean up' their contacts list and be ruthless when doing so: if you don't know someone to talk to or have never spoken to them, delete them - just because a friend appears to know them does not mean that they actually do.

Please ensure that all your child's profiles are set to "Private" and check that they do not contain mobile phone numbers or Twitter/Skype/KIK/Facebook etc. addresses. This will be a very good starting point for helping students protect themselves.

Can I also take the opportunity to remind you that there is a huge amount of help and support available through the school's e-safety page on the website, which is constantly updated with details of the latest risks, scams and how to manage them.

We take the online safety of all students seriously and wish to thank you for your continuing support.