



Dear Parent,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, my name is Shendy Blakemore and I am a Early Help Police Officer. I work with Primary Schools in Wednesbury and Tipton and alongside Strengthening Families teams. As part of my role I undertake work within the schools and regularly discuss issues that affect young people in and out of school. I completed an input in school recently about staying safe online.

The Police have seen an increase in young people using the internet and social media apps inappropriately for bullying and sharing images that are considered indecent. A lot of these matters get reported to the Police and we have a duty to investigate them which can be distressing for both you and your child. If I could ask you to consider taking the below steps on a regular basis to ensure that your child is staying safe

- **Check phones and tablets regularly (at least weekly) Browsing history, all chats and photos (including deleted) Check apps are appropriate research the DISCORD app.**
- **Check contacts and make sure all the people they interacting with online including gaming are known to you personally.**
- **Make all or their accounts private if not their videos and images and chats can be altered and shared with anyone**
- **Communicate, have regular chats about what they are doing and what games they are playing take an interest. They are more likely to tell you then if things do go wrong for them**

I fully appreciate the importance of social media in a young person's life but it is also important to remember that if it is misused there could be further consequences. **Remember the criminal age of responsibility is 10.** If you have any concerns or wish to discuss further, please feel free to contact me.

Regards

PC 7957 Shendy Blakemore

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