

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to bring to your attention a concerning social media trend currently circulating on platforms such as TikTok and Snapchat, often referred to as "School Wars." While we always aim to maintain a calm and positive environment for our students, it is essential that we work collaboratively to ensure our young people remain safe and are not drawn into harmful online activities, both in and out of school.

This trend involves social media posts that encourage "wars" or "clashes" between local schools. These posts often:

- **Create Artificial Rivalries:** They pit schools against one another, sometimes using "Red vs Blue" or "North vs South" branding to create a sense of conflict.
- **Gamify Anti-Social Behaviour:** They suggest a "points system" where students are encouraged to "score" by carrying out physical assaults or "tagging" students from opposition schools.
- **Encourage Harmful Conduct:** Some posts suggest using everyday school items as weapons or filming altercations to post online for "likes" and views.

We are grateful to the parents who have already shared their observations with us. By staying vigilant and monitoring their children's digital footprint, these families have provided helpful insights that allow us to stay well-informed. This type of proactive communication is invaluable; it ensures we can address these external trends early and keep our school environment focused on learning rather than online distractions.

We encourage all parents and carers to be extra vigilant over the coming weeks:

- **Monitor Online Activity:** Please take a moment to look at the apps your child is using and the types of content they are engaging with.
- **Review Communications:** Be aware of the messages they are sending and receiving in group chats.
- **Open a Dialogue:** Speak with your child about this trend. Ask them if they have seen these posts and reinforce the importance of not sharing or amplifying harmful content.
- **Share Information:** If you see anything concerning, please share it with the school via your child's Class Teacher, or the safeguarding team. If you believe there is an immediate risk to safety, please contact the police via 101 or 999 as appropriate.

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Our goal is to ensure our students continue to feel safe and focused on their education, rather than being drawn into unnecessary conflict. By working together, we can provide a united front that keeps our young people and our community safe.

Yours sincerely

Nichola Plant
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