

Date : 07.08.2019

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) :

It has come to our attention that social networking sites such as **Instagram** and **Facebook**, **WhatsApp** groups etc. have become extremely popular and that it is not uncommon to find underage children, like our students, registered on them.

Locally, and nationwide, there have been many troubling incidents reported regarding the misuse of the Internet by the students. Unfortunately, the forums like whatsapp groups are used to backbite and condemn the school practises and teachers, rather than for any constructive use. Also, children have started misusing these groups and are posting homework/classwork without parents' knowledge. The absentism has also increased in some classes owing to the easy access of material studied in School.

The legal framework of India **does not allow anyone under the age of 18 years** to join any social network. According to the Cyber Law, it is punishable to have an social media account before the age of 18.

Under Section 66A, Any person who sends by any means of a computer resource any information that is grossly offensive or has a menacing character; or any information which he knows to be false, but for the purpose of causing threat, annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine.

Primarily, these occurrences happen at home, after school hours, when children have access to Web sites. With this in mind, we would like to make a special appeal to you.

We strongly request that all parents and guardians prohibit their children from using Facebook, Instagram, Whatsapp group and other online meeting forums because as the adage states, it's better to be safe than sorry.

There will be zero tolerance in case of any student is found indulging in any unlawful cyber activity with the view to demean, humiliate, annoy or endanger any other student, teacher, friend etc. No explanation shall be sought and the admission shall stand cancelled.

It is informed that carrying electronic communication devices like Mobile Phones, Smart Watches, any device that can store/record/play audio-visual content; transmit or receive images; or provide unfiltered connection to the Internet such as I-Pads, DVD/CD players, game consoles, handheld PC, Smart Phones, Laptops, Tablet and any other gadget with similar capabilities is not permitted in School. If found, these shall be confiscated and strict action shall be taken.

The School has banned the access to Web-sites in School hours and we recommend that parents should limit and monitor their young children's Internet access at home with their safety foremost in mind. However, it is only through a collaborative effort between parents and teachers that we will succeed in creating responsible and safe cyber citizens.

Helpful Tips and Resources

1. We encourage you to talk to your child about the potential danger of the internet. You need to be vigilant, never leave your child unattended while he or she is using internet. Communication is the key to ensuring your child's safety and well-being online.

2. Don't; purchase smart phones for your ward/wards. Purchase an add-on number, so that you can track their internet access.
3. For your kind references and information, kindly go through the websites which offers parental and family guidance for internet safety. For example <https://www.connectsafely.org/parentguides/>

Important Reminder

As important stakeholders, the School seeks your cooperation in following simple steps such as :

1. When writing, kindly remind your ward that whatever he/she says on social media may be forwarded to some else, and in a few minutes it may be seen by half of the School.
2. As role models, please use constructive criticism, if at all. Avoid using derogatory words for teachers/school in the presence of your children. Remind your child to use appropriate language and conduct himself/herself in proper manner.
3. If you have a query or concern about the teacher or the School leadership, please talk to them directly at P.T.M. or any day after 2.30 p.m. after seeking an appointment with the concerned teacher/coordinator.

Mrs. Pooja Prakash
Principal

Cyber Congress Club
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