



CAMDEN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Frances Mary Buss Foundation

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Dear Parent/Carer,

It has recently come to my attention that some parents have been organising sleepover parties for their daughters, leaving them without any adult supervision. During some of these sleepovers there has been misuse of alcohol and sexualised behaviour.

The NSPCC states that children under the age of 16 must not be left unattended at night. If any harm were to come to a young person left alone, the parents can face prosecution. Please refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/law-on-leaving-your-child-home-alone> for further information.

The school takes online safety very seriously and this is taught via the ICT curriculum in year 7 and through PHSE in all year groups. This is supported by year assemblies and the school participates in a range of activities during E Safety week each February. However, we have become aware of issues in relation to some students signing up to and using apps such as 'Yellow', the 'Tinder for Teenagers' app. This app encourages users to swap text and images with total strangers. It is only one of many apps which are not appropriate for young people. All social media sites set their own age restrictions:

Age 16: Whatsapp

Age 13: Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Reddit, Tumblr, Google+, Pinterest.

As with all apps and websites which allow social networking via chat or live streaming, there is a risk of befriending strangers. They should never share personal details, and vigilance regarding what a child is doing online is essentially the parents' responsibility.

We would like you to be aware of the following guidelines and take action, where necessary:

- Tell your daughter that she is not allowed to use these apps until she reaches the recommended age.
- Make sure you have her password and check her phone regularly. This enables your daughter to resist peer pressure by saying she cannot get involved with dangerous or inappropriate activity because you will be checking her phone.
- Use parental controls to block or restrict access to certain apps and features on mobile phones - (How to do this on Apple iPhones or iPads <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304> , How to do this on Android <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738?hl=en>)

- Have a conversation with your daughter about how the anonymous or instantaneous nature of online communication can change the way people behave.
- Any inappropriate material, grooming or material of a sexual nature online must be reported to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) on:
www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

Camden school for Girls is taking a zero tolerance approach to inappropriate use of technology and social media. Serious sanctions will be applied in line with the school behaviour policy to all students who breach this. The making and/or distribution of inappropriate images is against the law and there have been instances where teenagers have been prosecuted.

To keep up to date with advice on apps that children have access to please visit:
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/How-to-guides/>

For Free online training:

https://cscb-new.co.uk/?page_id=8098https://cscb-new.co.uk/

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ms Derrar', written in a cursive style.

Ms Derrar
Deputy Headteacher