



Castledon School

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Dear Parents/Carers

16th November 2022

Anti-Bullying Week and Social Media

We are always striving for you as parents to feel empowered and to have the tools to continue conversations around the learning we cover in the Sixth Form. This week, as part of Anti-Bullying Week, our students have identified that bullying in their age group is most likely to occur online via social media. Therefore, we have been looking at the current laws that exist in the UK to protect people. Students have been introduced to the following three laws:

Communications Act - covers electronic communications and contact that is “grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character”.

Protection from Harassment Act - covers behaviours that might be considered harassment by causing alarm and distress to the victim, on at least two occasions.

Malicious Communications Act - covers communications sent with the purpose of causing distress or anxiety, including electronic communications.

We have also been providing the following advice to our students during form time:

- Do not respond to an incident. Report to an adult.
- Take screenshots as evidence.
- Discuss with parents/carers the option of notifying the police.
- Block people.
- Ensure Whatsapp is set up so students cannot automatically be added to groups.

We would be very grateful if parents/carers could support us in our efforts to make social media a safer place for our community by discussing these laws and our advice with your young person.

Further information about social media and the law can be found at the Anti Bullying Alliance website: <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/bullying-and-law/online-bullying-and-law>

We have also attached to this letter a parent guide to combat bullying from National Online Safety.

Yours sincerely

Mark O'Connell

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Key Stage 5 Phase Lead