



Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Each year at this time, as part of National Anti Bullying Week our School Council reviews our Anti Bullying Policy which you can view on our school website. Bullying is a term we use when something happens **Several Times On Purpose (STOP)** and should not be confused with isolated or one off incidents. In Y6 we are currently focusing on building and sustaining relationships; this is a vital life-skill, since we all have to forge relationships with all kinds of people.

During our discussions, it has become apparent that many of our Year 6 pupils are actively using social media (especially **Snapchat**) to communicate with one another outside school. A parent has also brought this to our attention, expressing concerns over the 'chats' which are taking place via this platform, some of which could raise concerns of online bullying where there are incidences of repeated name calling and social exclusion.

Please be aware that **the minimum age for Snapchat** (and most other social media sites) is **13** – an age limit which has been put in place to ensure those using it are emotionally responsible enough to use it safely and appropriately. It is particularly easy to engage in bullying behaviour on Snapchat, as 'chats' only appear on screen for ten seconds, unless the settings are altered to display the messages for longer.

**Please could we ask all parents to be vigilant and to monitor your child's activities online**, so that we can ensure social media is not being used as a platform for inappropriate behaviour towards others in our school. Where we are experiencing friendship difficulties in Year 6, it often stems from incidents that happen out of school.

**We would also recommend that pupils are not permitted to use such social media until they reach the recommended age and would greatly appreciate being informed if you have concerns of mis-use of social media.**

For more information on keeping your child safe in today's digital world, please visit [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)

As always, your support for all our pupils is greatly appreciated.

Ms Claire Dunkley

Class Teacher



Sutton in Craven Community Primary School