



25 September 2017

Dear Parents

### Use of Social Media

I write to you as I am concerned about a number of incidents that have occurred recently which have highlighted the fact that students from The Suthers School have been using social media apps such as Snapchat when travelling on the bus to and from school.

My concern centers upon the fact that these apps have been used as a means of sharing derogatory or potentially humiliating content and that it is in fact a **contravention of the minimum age requirements** for children under the age of 13 to download such apps. This includes: Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

I have spoken to all students about this matter and made clear to them that if they have downloaded Snapchat or other similar apps *without their parents' consent* then they must delete them from their phones. They have also been reminded of the fact that if they have a mobile phone with them in school, it must be switched off and kept in their bags at all times. They have also been reminded that failure to comply with this rule will result in the phone being confiscated until a nominated parent/carer is able to collect it.

Any use of age-restricted social media apps whilst at school or travelling to/from school on the school bus is strictly prohibited.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Andrew Pettit**  
Head of School