



Beeches Road, Birmingham, B42 2PY

0121 729 7310 • enquiry@corearena.academy

Headteacher: Raj Mann

🐦 @COREArenaAcad @COREeducate 📷 @CORE_arena_academy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here at Arena Academy, we take the safeguarding of our students seriously. We endeavour to work collaboratively with yourselves as parents/carers to keep your children safe during the school day, but also when they are at home with you.

It has come to our attention that Year 7 students are becoming even more susceptible to inappropriate content and harassment through the use of social media apps such as TikTok, Snapchat and Whatsapp. Unfortunately, since the start of September, the Year 7 Pastoral Team have dealt with several issues where students have sent or posted inappropriate messages, comments or videos. On occasions, the content of these messages has been insulting, inappropriate and even explicit. This online behaviour would be concerning at any age, but particularly from Year 7 students who are still developing their understanding of social norms and how to keep themselves safe.

I take this opportunity to remind you as parents and carers that there are age limits on each of these apps to keep your children safe - 13 for TikTok and Snapchat and 16 for Whatsapp. We are aware that lots of our students use these apps responsibly, despite being under these age limits. I am however concerned that there is a core group of students who are simply not able to deal with the impact of using these apps at a young age.

There is no need for your child to be in a group chat with other students at Arena Academy and if you feel that there is, we ask that you as the adult responsible for the wellbeing of your child, regularly monitor their activity on these platforms until (and beyond) they are of the legal age to be using them. It is important that you know your child's passwords and that you are checking what they are sending and receiving over these apps. We also recommend that your child doesn't keep their mobile phone in their room overnight. This will solve many of the issues that we face at school surrounding these apps and will continue to safeguard your child both at school and at home.

If your child is experiencing any issues online, they (or you as parent/carer) can report this to CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) here: <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

If you have any questions or would like to seek support from the pastoral team at Arena Academy, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping your child safe.

Kind regards,

Miss K Guest
Assistant Head Teacher – Behaviour and Attitudes