



Wyoming Public School

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WE NEED YOUR HELP

Dear Parents and Caregivers of Stage 2 Students,

Throughout the year we have experienced increased numbers of students coming to us for assistance with matters that have occurred online overnight or during the weekend/holidays.

I am writing to ask for your support.

We know that many Stage 2 students access social media to contact groups of friends after school, using apps such as “kids’ messenger,” “discord,” or “snap chat.” Some of these “chats” are in writing which allows students to screen shot and seek assistance should they feel victimised or unsafe during the chat. Unfortunately, some of these apps now allow for students to send “voice messages” which are not accessible once played.

In some circumstances these messages are causing children a great deal of distress and have the potential to have a negative impact on a child’s self-worth, self-belief, and mental health.

We cannot change this on our own. Please take a minute to think about if you really know what your child is accessing or participating in when online. While we understand that children no longer “phone” friends after school, unsupervised access to social media and the internet have proven to be a risk factor in compounding feelings of anxiety, depression, and self-hate/self-harm.

Due to this, we have included regular lessons and class discussions on cyber safety and cyber conduct throughout the year. We have also had presentations by the Police Youth Liaison Officer on this topic to reinforce our message.

While your child may not have had this experience online thus far, they may in the future. As a staff we have been horrified by the language and pictures that students have described being used on these sites as I believe you would also be.

Please join with us in teaching our children that it is not ok.

Rebecca Wild

PRINCIPAL

3 November 2022