

15 November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

You may have seen in the national news that schools and teachers are becoming the focus of TikTok videos. The TikTok 'challenge' involves creating parody accounts about your school, with the intent to include inappropriate content about the school or individual members of staff.

At Wilsthorpe, we pride ourselves in the mutual respect and positive relationships that exist between staff and students. This positive ethos – we often talk about 'Relationships First' – is something to be cherished and defended; we need to guard against anything that undermines the positive culture at the school and, as a consequence, the quality of your children's education.

Any TikTok accounts with videos relating to our school that are brought to our attention will be reported immediately to the relevant authorities. A message will be delivered to all students through tutor time this week and we are reviewing our school policies and expectations, particularly those relating to online conduct, to ensure that they are clear and straightforward for all students to understand and comply with. In addition, I have attached a parent information leaflet to equip you to have any discussions with your child(ren) you may feel appropriate, if they have a TikTok account. If students choose to engage in posting content, whether videos or comments, they can expect to receive school sanctions. Should any posting become more serious, students may be putting their place in our school community at risk.

I am conscious of the direct nature of this letter, but I felt it important to address the risks of this type of online behaviour. I am particularly aware of the many students, who would never consider engaging in this behaviour but who, nevertheless, may be aware of it and may appreciate understanding our response to it as a school. I know that students and parents alike appreciate the commitment, professionalism and hard work of our staff team and I am determined to preserve the strong sense of family that is a hallmark of the Wilsthorpe community. Negative use of social media towards anyone – student, staff or family member – is something we should not accept.

If you do hear about any account being set up or have any concerns you wish to discuss, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance or another member of our staff team.

With kind regards,



Mr D Hobbs
Headteacher