



Roseville Public School

Archbold Road, Roseville, NSW 2069

Tel: 9417 4107

Fax: 9417 4922

Email: roseville-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.rosevillepublicschool.net.au

Dear Year 5 and 6 Parents and Carers

As discussed during the Parent Information Evenings, in recent years we have spent considerable time reviewing and discussing our students' use of Social Media and as a result, **we continue to request support from families to discourage students from using Social Media.** This decision has not been made lightly. We feel strongly about this issue and firmly believe that this is the best approach to take.

There are a number of factors that have influenced our decision. The major ones being:

- Prior to 2018, student use of Social Media at RPS resulted in a large number of serious welfare based incidents. It is was by far our most serious welfare concern and is still an area that we are vigilant about. Students had been exposed to inappropriate themes or content, inappropriate interactions with external people and cyber bullying. This was not just in the case of isolated and rare incidents. In 2018, we formally commenced our school wide approach and the improvement was dramatic.
- The legal age that students should commence involvement with these sites is 13 years.
- Our parent and staff bodies were encouraged to consider this course of action by renowned child psychologist Dr Michael Carr-Gregg and this supports the recommendation of our own school counsellor and psychologist, Sue Carlson.

There are many variants as to what is considered Social Media and we do not want to become overly prescriptive as it may confuse things. Basically, we do not want our students engaging in Social Media or associated gaming sites which stipulate a joining age of 13 years or older. Additional information can also be located via the Office of the eSafety Commissioner: <https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent>

This will be a whole school approach. However, the vast majority of incidents have involved students in Years 5 or 6. Hence the increased focus with this group. In the past, it has been challenging for families to stop the use of Social Media because many of their child's friends have been using it and this has led to students feeling as if they had been left out. Our hope is that if all students at RPS are not involved then this problem will be alleviated.

I would also like to emphasise that RPS does not permit students to use devices which connect to the internet at school. There are further details contained within our Mobile Phone Policy. If a phone is brought to school it should remain within a school bag and should be turned off, throughout the school day. Smart watches, which connect to the internet or can be used as communication devices are also not permitted. I will distribute our Mobile Phone Policy via the App.

I would like to thank everyone in advance for their support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or queries.

Regards

Sean Moran - Principal
17/02/2020