

20 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Malicious Communication

Over recent weeks, we have been made aware about several issues with TikTok in relation to inappropriate posts about students and staff.

As a school, we are clear that online behaviour which targets, humiliates or causes distress to others is not acceptable. Comments or posts made online can have a significant impact on students' wellbeing, and in some circumstances may also be considered malicious communication. On the next page is a summary of what a malicious communication is. If you or your child become aware of any accounts, posts, comments or messages of this nature, please do not engage with them or share them further. Instead, report as inappropriate within the App and contact a member of the Safeguarding Team at school so that we can respond quickly and appropriately.

We would also encourage you as parents and carers to speak with your child about responsible social media use, including the importance of not liking, sharing, commenting on or reposting harmful content.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our school community safe, positive and kind.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr Schuller**  
School-wide Online Safety Lead  
Designated Safeguarding Deputy



**Mrs Saccomando**  
Safeguarding Manager  
Designated Safeguarding Deputy

### What is a Malicious Communication?

A message, post, video, comment, account or share that targets another person and is likely to upset, threaten, humiliate or cause distress.

This can include:

- Grossly offensive or indecent messages.
- Threatening, menacing or intimidating comments.
- False information posted to harm someone.
- Content designed to embarrass, upset or cause anxiety.
- Anonymous accounts used to target others.
- Reposting, liking or commenting in a way that helps harmful content spread.

Online behaviour can have real consequences. School may investigate online conduct where it affects students, staff or the wider school community. Consequences may include parent/carer contact, behaviour sanctions, restorative work, safeguarding involvement and, where necessary, police contact.

In England and Wales, the age of criminal responsibility is **10**. This means young people can be held responsible for criminal behaviour, although children and young people are treated differently from adults.

If your child sees harmful content online, they should:

- Not reply, repost, like or share it.
- Block or report the account where appropriate.
- Tell a trusted adult.
- Speak to the school Safeguarding Team.

**Key message:** If a post is designed to embarrass, target or upset someone, do not make it, share it or support it.