



Archbishop Blanch  
SCHOOL

21 May 2019

# Archbishop Blanch School Voluntary Aided

Church of England High School 80 Earle Road, Liverpool L7 6HQ

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Headteacher: Mrs C Madeloso BA(Hons), MA, PGCE, NPQH

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, keeping your daughter safe and ensuring she makes both academic and personal progress are our priorities at Archbishop Blanch School. We strongly believe that the best way to ensure this is by working together with parents and carers to make the most of your daughter's time at school. Through assemblies, the PSHE curriculum, careers guidance and partnerships with agencies including CAMHS, The Princess Diana Trust, Bullybusters and Merseyside Police, amongst others, we try to educate your daughter to become a productive citizen providing her with best possible life chances.

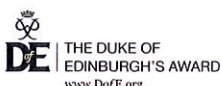
However, we cannot do this alone. As we approach the last half term of Year 7's first full year in secondary school, there are a few points I would like to draw to your attention:

## Social Media & Mobile Phones

- While there are many advantages to social media, if not used properly it has the potential to be a significantly destructive force in a young person's life. Staff are increasingly having to mediate between students regarding incidents involving social media and taking place outside of the school. According to the DfE guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation (January 2018), Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item - any item banned by the school rules - such as mobile phones. The guidance clarifies that there is no need to have parental consent to search through a young person's mobile phone if it has been seized in a 'without consent' search and is prohibited by the school rules.
- We respectfully remind parents and carers that legally children need to be 13 years old to set up accounts on most social media platforms including Instagram and Snapchat; for WhatsApp the age is 16. However, there is no age verification process and children are setting up accounts at much younger ages, making themselves vulnerable to receiving information unsuitable for them. We would strongly urge you to fulfil parental obligations by regularly monitoring your daughter's phone and any social media activity.

## Attendance & Punctuality

- Students can only succeed in school if they are present and on time. While we appreciate there are, for some students, extenuating health circumstances, we aim for 100% attendance for most students. Unfortunately, the current year 7 have one of the lowest attendance rates in the school- this is very unusual for year 7, and is due, in some part, to the exceptionally high number of unauthorised term-time holidays that have been taken. Please consider if your daughter has symptoms such as a slight cold or period pains she is still able to attend school; this is an important skill for life as students develop resilience.

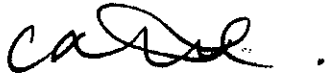


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While we appreciate that these topics may possibly lead to some difficult conversations, it is vital that parents and school work in tandem to support both your daughter's education and well-being.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to continuing to work together in the best interests of your daughter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Madeloso', followed by a period.

**Mrs C Madeloso**  
**Headteacher**