

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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*A Church of England School
providing a Values Based Education*

8th November, 2011

Dear Parents and Carers

TikTok Videos and account

It has been brought to our attention that three highly offensive accounts have been set up on TikTok with memes of staff (mainly myself) – all three mimicking school accounts. These are most definitely not school accounts and the postings are both inappropriate and upsetting. The matter has been reported both directly to TikTok and to the Police and we are waiting for further updates from the crime bureau who have this logged as malicious communications. I'm sure the creator of these accounts does not realise the disrespectful and hurtful nature of such postings, however, there will be serious repercussions for what amounts to grossly offensive and threatening behaviours. Such behaviour has no place in our Holywell community.

What is even more upsetting and distressing is that these accounts have been liked and followed by many current and past students – several of whom have been happy to endorse these defamatory postings. Such behaviour and support for something which is so personally offensive and which damages the reputation of both the school and the staff of the school is totally opposite to everything we believe in as a school. We have been working hard at school to 'live our values, being the best we can be in community'. Our current school value is 'Courage' and we have asked students to 'stand up for what is right' – I am saddened that students who have viewed these accounts have not responded by saying 'that's not right', by deleting the accounts or by reporting the accounts. We are currently in the process of identifying individuals who have 'liked' the accounts – those identified so far are mainly in Years 7 and 8. I would be grateful if parents could ensure students do not continue to access these accounts on TikTok with immediate effect – perhaps even considering deleting the app.

Having never viewed TikTok directly until today, I have been quite shocked to see some of the content. I would certainly not recommend this as an app which any of our students should have access to. Indeed, the vast majority of our students should not have a TikTok account as the recommended minimum age for the app is 13. I would urge all parents to monitor what students are accessing on their phones at home and I remind everyone that our mobile phone policy does not allow smart phones on site. Anyone found with a smart phone on site will have it confiscated.

I would be grateful for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

MG Simpson

Mr MG Simpson
Headteacher



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss A Stewart
Assistant Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead / SENDCo: Mrs J Davies – Senior Leader: Mr James Ulph

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