



Dear parent or guardian

I am writing to you today to bring to your attention a matter which I believe to be significant both in terms of your son/daughter, the school which they currently attend and the wider local community.

In recent days there have been reported incidents to Police of inappropriate use of social media, including instagram and facebook, by pupils at schools across the borough of Knowsley.

The nature of the inappropriate use centres around the posting of explicit images on group profiles that have been set up with no other objective than to cause hurt and distress to those pupils who have been named on these sites. I am sure you will agree that the fallout from such behaviour can have wide ranging implications for those subjected to this form of abuse including their friends and families. It is a cruel method in which to bully, and those affected have already experienced undue stress as a result.

I am seeking your support in discussing this issue with your child/children, explaining to them the dangers of inappropriate use of the internet, and taking a positive approach with regard to monitoring their activities they undertake around the use of social media.

Merseyside Police are currently conducting enquiries around those websites to identify those responsible for setting them up, and will take positive action against those responsible. The posting of explicit images in this manner will be fully investigated, and I want to make it clear that should any criminal offences be identified, then those suspected will be criminally interviewed by detectives.

Our dedicated schools officers are available to provide advice and support to your child/children. I would encourage you to have your children speak to them should they have information around this matter.

Thank you in advance for your support, and I would reiterate the posting of these images is causing considerable distress to the young people directly affected by this behaviour, and it needs to stop now.

Steve Cox
Detective Chief Inspector
Knowsley CID

**Steve Cox
Detective Chief Inspector
Merseyside Police
Lathom Road Huyton
L36 9XU
0151 7776204**



**Steve Cox
Detective Chief Inspector
Merseyside Police
Lathom Road Huyton
L36 9XU
0151 7776204**