



A community of transformation founded on love, hope & trust

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Headteacher: Aimee Gallagher

27 February 2026

Dear Parent/carer,

Re: Social Media & Internet Safety

You may already have heard of the 'School Wars: Red vs Blue' posts on social media. In the posts, schools are put into red or blue teams and encouraged to behave in an anti-social way, including harming one another. These posts have been published about schools all over London, now including St Mark's Academy and neighbouring schools, and this has understandably caused concern. Therefore, in this letter we will explain some of the actions being taken at school and in the borough of Merton, as well as actions you can take to ensure our young people are safe.

We are in close communication with police to ensure both we, and they, are aware of any specific threats or developments. Police are also:

- Monitoring social media
- Providing extra patrols at the end of the school day, where possible
- On alert to respond to any possible issues.

Commander Neerav Patel said:

"We're aware of social media posts circulating and are in close contact with schools across several London boroughs to offer reassurance"

"Officers will maintain a strong, visible presence around schools, and will respond firmly to any reports of violence or disorder"

"We continue to closely monitor online spaces and have worked with platforms to request a dozen social media accounts to be disabled where threats or violence were planned or encouraged"

"I would like to remind young people of the serious consequences of getting involved in matters like this. An arrest, charge and conviction for violence and carrying weapons could mean imprisonment with a significant long-term impact on future opportunities"

We are closely monitoring the situation at school and have reminded our pupils to report any concerns to staff. Following on from assemblies and learning in Lifeology around safe internet use, we have this morning reminded our pupils about the principles of keeping safe online and how social media can be used to promote fake news and cause division in communities. We also reinforced the message that engaging with inappropriate content and posts is likely to have consequences both now and possibly in the future when applying for further study or careers.

We have been in touch with the Local Authority and the safer school's Sergeant and are following guidance.

As always, staff will be on the gate as pupils enter and leave the school.



Please be aware of what you or your child might see on social media. We also suggest you:

- Remind your child that they should talk to you about anything they see online which worries them
- Ensure your child knows that if they see any large groups or anything that causes them concern, that they must walk away

As parents and carers, you play a key role in helping your child stay safe online by monitoring your child's social media and internet activity, keeping communication with your child open, reinforcing safety principles and guiding them to report any concerns. You do not need to be an expert on social media or the internet to help keep your child safe online. The UK Safer Internet Centre provides advice and resources to support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively. Please find the useful link below:

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Thank you for working with us to keep our school community safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Gallagher'.

Aimee Gallagher

Headteacher