



**Carpenters**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher: Diane Barrick

Friendship Way, Stratford, London E15 2JQ Tel: 020 8534 4759 Fax: 020 8534 0791

e-mail: [info@carpenters.newham.sch.uk](mailto:info@carpenters.newham.sch.uk)

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: e-Safety - Keeping children safe online

It has come to my attention that children in Year 6 are using social media inappropriately - in particular 'Instagram'. Reports have included children using swear words, uploading inappropriate pictures, using foul language with each other and even intimidating others.

As these incidents happen outside of school, it is very difficult for us to control this. However, when problems are brought into school by children who are upset about what they have seen or heard, it then becomes a problem for us. Your children have had several workshops since September based on the themes of 'anti-bullying' and 'keeping yourself safe online'. They all know how they should behave and what both appropriate and inappropriate behaviour is online. In addition, I held a Parent/Carer workshop at the beginning of February to support parents/carers in keeping their children safe!

In order to ensure this kind of behaviour does not continue, there are ways we can work together.


- **The minimum age to use Instagram is 13**, in compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. Instagram doesn't ask users to specify their age, and there are many younger children who use the service, often with their parents' permission. Whether Instagram is "safe" depends more on how it's used than on the age of the user, but Instagram will delete underage accounts if they're notified and can verify the users are under 13.
- Instagram can be accessed via hardware that has internet connection, including phones and ipads. Children can upload messages and photos at the click of a button.

Questions for parents/carers to consider:

1. Do you know if your child has an Instagram account?
2. If so, are their settings private (meaning people have to request to be a friend)?
3. Do you know their username and password for it? Is it a safe username?
4. Is their image a photo of themselves?
5. Do you regularly check it?
6. Do you know if your child has posted something inappropriate or offensive towards another child?
7. Has anybody posted something inappropriate or offensive towards your child?
8. Do you know what to do if you are concerned about the content on Instagram?

As the designated e-Safety Leader in school, it is my responsibility to ensure we work together to keep children safe. I will be organising another e-Safety training session for parents/carers in the summer term and will let you know the date as soon as possible. In the meantime, the following website has some good advice for parents/carers: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parentsold](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parentsold). Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

  
Diane Barrick - Headteacher

