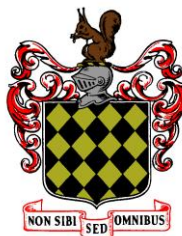


Headteacher
Mrs DA Silcock
B. Sc. NPQH



Julia M Shaw
FCIPD Dipl PA
Chair of Governors

Founded 1708

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL

Church Road Wavertree Liverpool L15 9EE

Telephone: 0151 733 1407 Fax: 0151 734 0982 www.bluecoatschoolliverpool.org.uk

A Specialist School in Science and Mathematics

11th May 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

Issues arising from Facebook and mobile phones and advice to Parents and carers

Like every school we are concerned about the misuse of social networking and instant messaging to send offensive, inappropriate or upsetting messages to students. Facebook messaging is a particular concern since many people are able to see remarks and comment on them.

The School is only involved in these situations where a student is being cyber-bullied and when a student is upset by inappropriate messaging and we are informed by students or parents about an issue. These situations cannot and do not occur in school time, and therefore the responsibility for discussing these issues and advising and monitoring the use of Facebook is shared between School and home. One effective way to do this is by being a Facebook friend with your son or daughter. This enables you to monitor activities and conversations and is an effective method of supervision.

The School is about to launch a series of messages to advise strongly students about the possible impact of sending messages. Posters and meetings will highlight the following messages, among others, under the slogan "**Think before you send**":

"Would you want to receive the message you are about to send?"

"Would you want your family to read the message you are about to send? If not, think and delete."

As Parents and Carers we would urge you to discuss your child's use of Facebook, and to monitor it and support the School in the advice we are giving students. Students cannot access such sites in school, and are not allowed to access their mobile phones during school hours. Many young people are using Facebook responsibly, but where they are not, and in some cases hundreds of people are accessing offensive comments about students. This school, like all others, will have to record incidents as cyber-bullying, and we will contact you to explain our concerns.



This school works hard to challenge and eliminate bullying to ensure that this is a safe environment in which young people can thrive. We ask you to monitor activities outside school hours- as never before- if this is to be a success.

Yours faithfully

S R Cox

S Cox
Deputy Headteacher
Children's Services and Personal Development

