



## *“Excellence, Truth and Grace”*

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Re: Instagram Warning**

As you will be aware Parish is committed to helping support you in keeping your children safe online. We have received the following information from our Education Safeguarding Officer, which we have been asked to share.

*‘One of our schools has kindly shared some intelligence from a neighbouring Borough in respect of concerning activity on Instagram.*

*We are advised that accounts have been set up on Instagram which are linked to local areas, e.g. in this instance, the account causing concern was called, i\_know\_you\_Radcliffe\_2. This account appears to no longer be active, but it is quite possible that other variations along this theme exist or the account name will just change and the same activity will continue.*

*The activity that was concerning was that children (many of whom were primary age) had been sending their name to this account and the account holder was then demonstrating how much they know about the child by replying with details such as, the name of the street they live on, school they attend, friends’ names etc. The account had no privacy settings therefore all of this information about children was accessible publically, which could clearly leave them highly vulnerable.*

*As this is current intelligence from one of our close neighbouring Boroughs, I thought it may be useful to share a reminder with parents that if children are using social media, (which we would advise against if they are not the appropriate age!) that parents ensure that they have privacy settings to prevent posts being accessed indiscriminately AND that they have close supervision of: who children are contacting/being contacted by, when they are using these sites.’*

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Jackie Cooke