Dear Parent/Guardian,

This letter is to bring to your attention the issue of some children under 13 years of age having social media accounts on forums such as Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, and YouTube.

Firstly please be aware that if any child under 13 has one of these accounts, then a false declaration may have been made to the administrators of these social media platforms in relation to age and or a false email address to set it up. We urge all parents if they suspect or know their child to have one of these accounts to talk to their child and make them aware of the rules and be proactive in contacting the administrators to cancel these accounts and get them closed down.

Social media can be very enjoyable to its users, however exploitation and bullying can also be part of the experience for many children, who are especially vulnerable to any negative impact from these forums, so to ensure your child’s safety we urge all parents to address this issue and take the necessary steps to safeguard their children.

When West Midlands Police are contacted in relation to bullying or abuse on social Media accounts which are held by children under 13 years of age parents will be made aware they need to protect their child's safety by not allowing and to be actively taking steps to closing these accounts down.

Any advice guidance on this subject is available on the above contact details.

The Balsall Heath/Sparkbrook
Police Team