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Dear Parent/Guardian

You may be aware through recent media reports that a new website, Ask.fm, is becoming very popular with teenagers. Ask.fm is a social Q&A website which allows those who join the opportunity to create a profile URL using their Facebook profile. They can then be asked questions by people who may either choose to leave their name or post comments anonymously (which most seem to do). There is the potential for the use of this site to be both distressing and indeed dangerous for our pupils due to the unacceptable nature of many of the postings by unknown people.

We are asking parents to discuss our concerns with their children and agree the best way forward. If Ask.fm is an issue for your family and you wish to disable an existing account the following website may be of help.

<http://www.pcclean.ie/how-to-deactivate-ask-fm-account-to-prevent-cyberbullying/>

If blocking individuals is required look at <http://www.webwise.ie/AskfmGuide.shtm>

Helpful websites for general information about social networking sites and cyberbullying are listed below.

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<http://www.fuzion.ie/index.cfm/page/cyberbullying>

<http://www.kidscape.org.uk/assets/downloads/dcsfcyberbullyingsummary.pdf>

Please do not hesitate to contact pastoral staff on 02890 740423 if you have any questions.

You may wish to re-read the attached document, which we issued to parents of our pupils last year, for general advice on the safe use of social media.

Yours sincerely

Dr Catherine Scully
Deputy Principal