

To all parents of the Comprehensive School of Belgioioso

Dear Sirs,

this letter, is to reflect with you on a problem that has become part of our daily life : the improper use of smartphones and social networks by both children and adults.

This wrong habit is bringing us to dangerous situations, such as cyber-bullying, violation of privacy, stalking and other related crimes. Often these violations of the rights of the person take place in an almost unconscious way, without taking into account the real repercussions they can have on life and on the physical and moral well-being of the people involved.

Therefore, we should reflect on some points that we believe are becoming real educational urgencies:

- Use of social media by minors: the Article 8 of the European Regulation (Gdpr) of 25 May 2018 on privacy and the processing of personal data sets the minimum age for registering for social networks like Instagram, Facebook, Whatsapp, etc. to 16 years. Italy has lowered the minimum age to 14 years: before this threshold it is not possible to register even with the consent of parents . This means that any act of cyber-bullying or other violations, which can damage comrades, teachers or other parents, falls under the criminal responsibility of the legal guardians of the boy. In such cases the educational institution cannot intervene with

disciplinary sanctions, since the violations take place outside school hours (the use of smartphones at school is prohibited). Instead, it can and must implement educational actions that make children aware of a conscious use of the web; we are convinced, however, that these actions would be ineffective without the involvement and support of families.

- Time of use of the smartphone / videogames: many kids spend too many hours online and on their cell phones. Some of our boys also spend the night hours either in chat or playing video games online, with obvious repercussions on academic performance and above all on their health. Also in this area we urge your reflection on the need for careful supervision, in the interest of our children.
- Adult chat: dangerous dynamics are sometimes found also in adult groups. In class chats, for example, communication is easily extended, exaggerated and distorted . We therefore encourage parents, in case of doubt, to contact teachers or the Institute directly, in order to prevent possible misunderstandings. We also remember that the only official school dialogue tool with families regarding teaching is the electronic register Argo, while for everything concerning news, circulars and school functioning is the website www.icbelgioioso.edu.it , together with the pupil personal diary, that should be consulted daily. No official news is passed on by word of mouth.

We are convinced that only through a synergy between the agencies that take care of the education of our children: family, school, Parish, sports clubs etc ..., and some "no" said at the right time, it is possible to increase the sense of responsibility, of inclusion and of openness in the new generations ,as these values ,have always been part of Italian culture and tradition.

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