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Dear Mr Kyle MP,

Social media and primary school children

We have recently discovered that you are the member of our government with responsibility for social media (in your job as Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology), so decided we had to write to you.

We are ten children from Rickmansworth Park JMI School in Hertfordshire. Our Unicef group is called **Vital Voices** and we are learning how to make the most of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12, which states that every child has the right to be listened to and taken seriously.

We are campaigning for children's safety on social media. It is astonishing how much time and money is spent on electronic devices these days and in a questionnaire we sent out, parents in our school told us they are incredibly concerned about social media safety. They tell us they are worried about how we are able to access footage that is not appropriate for our age. This can also make us children feel uncomfortable.

What we want to ask you is:

- Are you checking what goes on social media?
- Do you know that underage children are seeing inappropriate and frightening things that they should not be seeing?
- Do you use social media and if so, have you seen something bad?
- Do you make social media companies control what goes on their platforms?

Our Vital Voices group did a survey in school and we learned that 87% of the Junior children have seen something online that makes them feel uneasy! We also discovered from the same survey that the following platforms are used by many of our children - who didn't know that the minimum age for their use is 13!

- TikTok
- Instagram
- Snapchat
- YouTube
- X
- Facebook

When we presented our survey findings in assembly, the teachers and children were surprised and shocked, especially as we learn about staying safe online in computer classes. Our teachers said no wonder our parents are concerned.

We look forward to hearing from you about what is happening in the government to protect children using social media. It would be good to be able to tell our school community about your work.

Kalyani, Hemera, Isabella, Imogen, Frankie, Freddie,
Logan, Madeeha, Amsira, Amelia (Ages 8-11)

Vital Voices
Rickmansworth Park JMI School

P.S. If you would like to visit our school, you would be very welcome indeed!

WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

Children's rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.

