



Online Safety – Social Media Age Restrictions

As part of our on-going work on Child Protection and Safeguarding we have reviewed the information we share with parents about Online Safety and how parents can protect and support their children in our increasingly digital world.

We know that many of our children are used to using digital devices for leisure as well as for school work, and are often more confident than the adults around them.

We thought you might find this guide to social media age restrictions helpful. As you can see from the table below, none of our children are of the appropriate age for the use of social media sites listed below and so should not be accessing them. Please be vigilant as to your child's internet use as these restrictions are there to protect them.

AGE RESTRICTIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA					
Minimum age 13+	Minimum age 14+	Minimum age 16+	Minimum age 17+	Minimum age 18+	18+ (or 13+ with parents' consent)
Twitter Facebook Messenger FaceTime Instagram Google Hangouts Tumblr Reddit Snapchat TikTok	LinkedIn	WhatsApp	Vine Tinder Kik	Path	Youtube Keek Wechat Flickr

For more detailed information on social media platforms, please visit:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/?page=6>

This website provides a wealth of information on each of the social media platforms including an expert analysis of the risks associated with them, what you should know about the platform and top tips for staying safe.

We would highly recommend that you look at this information if your child uses any social media platform.

Key things to talk to your children about:

- 1) Ask them to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.
- 2) Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

3) Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services that they use.

4) Encourage them to help someone! Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.

5) Think about how you each use the internet. What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there any activities that you could enjoy as a family?

The attached leaflet for KS2 children is just a part of the online safety work that we do in school as part of our curriculum in Computing and PSHE, and revisit on a regular basis. Please read it through, discuss it with your child and keep it handy for future reference.

There is a wealth of information to support parents and carers in helping them keep their children safe online; please do take some time to look at the websites suggested below.

Other websites for further online safety information and advice include:



<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>



<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/esafety-leaflets-resources/>



<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>



<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>