



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been brought to my attention that a number of children in our school, particularly in Year 5, have social media accounts. I have been shown screen shots by a number of parents showing that the messages and the groups that are being set up, are both divisive and have bullying content.

Where it is not our remit to police this, the issues that it is causing is impacting on teaching time, the children's relationships in school as well as causing a negative impact on mental health and well-being. The children do not realise that what they are doing and saying has repercussions.

We implore you to check your child's phone and other similar devices. This is to keep them and others safe. Please talk to them about the platforms they are using.

We have listed below a number of social media platforms and games that we are aware that the children are using, and their legal age of use:

- Twitter – children should be at least 13 years old before creating an account. Parental permission is a not a factor.
- Facebook – children should be at least 13 years old before creating an account. Parental permission is a not a factor.
- Instagram – children should be at least 13 years old before creating an account. Parental permission is a not a factor.
- WhatsApp – minimum age 16 years old. This was raised from 13 years old in May 2018 in line with the EU data privacy regulations. Parental permission is not a factor.
- Snapchat – children should be at least 13 years before creating an account. Parental permission is a not a factor.
- YouTube – account holders must be 18 or over and much of the content is restricted to age 18 and over. Parental permission is not a factor.
- Fortnite – children should be at least 12 years old before creating an account. Parental permission is a not a factor.

I very much hope that you will support us in this as we are very concerned about your children.

With regards

Sarah Evans
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