



Head: Mrs Jennifer Roberts
BA (Hons) Pri Ed, NPQH.

Wednesday 26th March 2025

Dear Year 5 Parents and Carers,

Social Media use outside of school

We are writing to advise you of a serious concern that has been raised with us regarding children's use of social media outside of school. There are several groups of pupils using social media platforms such as Snapchat and WhatsApp. Unfortunately, a parent has raised a concern about communication on a Snapchat group, with Year 5 children in it. Someone unknown to the group has been added, and then started a private conversation with a child. This matter is now with the police. We have contacted all the parents with children in this specific group this morning.

We take online safety very seriously, and lessons happen each year on online safety. However, in light of this incident, we have also asked the Year 5 teachers to do a refresher lesson today and to share any concerns they might have with us or with you. Please do take the opportunity to open the dialogue with your child about their safety online and what to do if they are worried or something doesn't feel right. While on the subject, we have noticed that some children are getting worried about behaviour online when using games and apps. Please could you also use this opportunity to remind children that the kind behaviour we would expect in person should also be the case online too.

Most Social media apps are for pupils 13 years and over. If you do allow your child to access social media, we ask for your vigilance. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support.

What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring phones for the apps that are downloaded
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles



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- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine
- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices

• Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing. Children are less likely to tell you when there is a problem if they feel they will be 'in trouble' - so please bear this in mind when talking to them.

Please also find attached a helpful guide about [Snapchat](#) on our website, and attached to this letter, a guide about changing settings. We would strongly recommend that you look at the apps your child uses and check their interactions and settings, to ensure they are appropriate and safe.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Mrs Roberts



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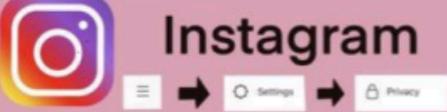
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Social Media Settings

Most social media apps are 13+ (WhatsApp is 16+) but - as we are aware some children are using them regularly - we wanted to share some important settings to keep children safe online.

Instagram



PRIVATE ACCOUNT: when this is on, only followers can see your posts and stories and you have to approve followers *(recommended: on)*

COMMENTS, TAGS, MENTIONS, STORY: allows you to control who can tag you, comment on your posts, mention you in their story and control your story audience

You can also restrict, block or report a user by clicking on their profile and selecting the three dots in the top right.
You can also remove a follower using this method.

Tiktok



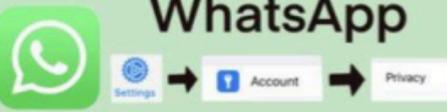
PRIVATE ACCOUNT: when this is on, only followers can see your posts and you have to approve followers *(recommended: on)*

SAFETY: Tiktok has lots of options to restrict contact and interaction with video posts *(recommended: friends)*

COMMENT FILTERS: you can automatically hide comments that may have offensive words in *(recommended: on)*

You can also block, report or remove a follower by clicking on their profile and clicking the three dots in the top right hand corner.

WhatsApp



PROFILE PHOTO AND STATUS: You can change who can see a profile photo and status *(recommended: my contacts)*

GROUPS: allows you to stop a contact being able to add you to groups *(recommended for when a friend adds you without permission)*

BLOCKED: can add a contact to a blocked list so they can't message you.

You can also block or report a contact/ number by clicking on the chat with them, clicking on their number/name at the top then scrolling down!

Snapchat



CONTACT: decide who can message you and send you snaps *(recommended: my friends)*

VIEW MY STORY: restrict who can see your story *(recommended: my friends)*

GHOST MODE: if this isn't on, contacts can see your location on a map *(recommended: on)*

You can also block or report a user by locating their contact, tapping and holding their name and clicking more