

Our Ref: Safeguarding/LFo

25th January 2022

Dear Parent/ Guardian

Re: Online Safety

Social media, as we are all aware, is ever changing and at a pace faster than most of us could have imagined – With this comes a wider choice, a bigger audience, more risks and a greater responsibility; ever more so with the added requirement for children to learn from home.

We appreciate that, as our children get older and into their tweens/teens, it can become more difficult to control their screen time but there are things that, as parents/carers, you can still do to improve their safety online – for all ages:

- Discuss digital wellbeing with them and agree daily limits on individual apps before enforcing them on phones, tablets, laptops etc.
- Check their phones etc., regularly
 - Who are they talking to?
 - Do they *actually* know them in person?
 - Are they in Group Chats?
 - Do they know everyone in the chat?
 - Is the chat content okay?
 - What apps are they using? Are they age-appropriate?
 - What content are they viewing/sharing?
 - What photos are they sharing/receiving?
 - Check their app accounts are Private
- Check their browser history regularly.
- Get your child to search their own name regularly – This will show them their own digital footprint and will help to maintain good habits.

- For younger children, it's important to check the PEGI ratings of any games they are playing both on or offline.
- Add parental PINs and lockdown chat settings so they can only chat with known friends.
- Ensure your child knows how to mute, block and report players if things go wrong.

Many children will put up a good argument as to why parents/carers should respect their privacy on social media but, ultimately, it is up to us to keep them safe.

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Useful Links/Info:







- Safer Internet UK: [Homepage - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- NSPCC: [Online Safety for Children - Tips & Guides | NSPCC](#)
- Barnado's: [Online safety | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)
- Childline: [Online Grooming - Staying Safe](#)

Apps – minimum ages

13 year olds and upwards

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
|  TikTok |  Instagram |  Facebook |  Snapchat |  Twitter |
|  YouTube |  Houseparty |  Kik |  Bebo |  YouNow |
|  Habbo |  Reddit |  Tumblr |  Yubo |  Whisper |
|  Discord |  Twitch |  Omegle |  AskFm | |

16 year olds and upwards

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  WhatsApp |  LinkedIn |  Flickr |  Vimeo |
|  MySpace |  Periscope | | |

If you have any concerns about your child's (or another's) use of social media please don't hesitate to contact us.

Please ensure your children know that they can speak to any member of staff in school if they are concerned about any activity on social media – Anything reported to us will be addressed with the utmost importance and discretion.

Yours faithfully,



Mr L Martin
Designated Officer for Safeguarding & Child Protection