A Parent's Guide to Social Media

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We're all aware that we now live in an age where Social Media forms a key part in all of our lives, so:
How do we keep our children safe?
How do we know that we are using social media correctly?
How do we know we are using it legally?

With these questions in mind, we have put together a brief checklist for you below, together with links to useful websites to furnish you with greater insight and knowledge.

- Set up smart-phone free areas at home i.e., make upstairs in your home free of technology
  (so that you can be more aware of when your child is using social media)
- Be a good role model to your child. If you are constantly on the phone/social media then they will learn from you.
- Set a time-limit. No technology or devices 30mins-1hour before bed, with all devices being left downstairs.
- Set parental controls on all devices and apps.
- Be aware of, and share with your children, the legal implications of sharing information, photographs online though social media.
   - Are comments libellous?
  - Are photographs appropriate?
   - Are they cyber-bullying?
  Once items/chats are 'posted' they are in the public domain and can be used/kept/shared by others.

Minimum Age Requirements:

Most digital apps have minimum age requirements set within their terms of service or privacy policy. Minimum ages differ between Apps.

Facebook   - 13 years
Instragram   - 13 years
Pinterest   - 13 years
Tumblr   - 13 years
Reddit   - 13 years
Snapchat   - 13 years
Secret   - 13 years
Twitter   - 13 years
LinkedIn   - 14 years
Whatsapp   - 16 years
Vine   - 17 years
YouTube   - 18 years *(13-17 can sign up with parent's permission)*
WeChat   - 18 years

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490001/Social_Media_Guidance_UKCCIS_Final_18122015.pdf.pdf

https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/devices-computers/

https://www.internetmatters.org/

http://parentinfo.org/article/your-child-s-digital-footprint