



Dear Parents/Carers

Social media use by Primary School children

We have in recent weeks dealt with a number of reports of some of our children using social media and group chats outside of school unsafely or inappropriately. At St Joseph's, we want our pupils to grow into responsible young people who understand how to protect themselves and their own privacy, respect the privacy of others and who can settle differences in a respectful and constructive manner, online and offline. We are, however, spending increasing amounts of time dealing with the fallout from avoidable social media issues which are occurring outside of school.

It has been brought to our attention that children have been 'baiting' other children within the classroom with unkind comments and posting photos of children without their permission. All of these actions could be classed as online bullying, if this were to be the case, this may result in a child being suspended from school, which would remain on their educational record. Please can I ask all parents to talk to your children about their behaviour online.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?



Sourced from NSPCC website October 2019

Parental responsibility:

Should you decide to allow your child to use social media platforms that are not age appropriate, then we strongly advise you to:

- Check their profile is set to private and that only friends can see information that is posted, not the wider cyber community
- Monitor your child's use and talk to them about safe, kind and appropriate online behaviour
- Ask them to install the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) application from www.facebook.com/clickceop on their profile. This places a bookmark on their profile to CEOP
- Remind your child to use the Report Abuse button, available on most social media platforms, which has been known to deter offenders
- Ask your child to block a contact if they are being unkind
- Set up your own profile on the social media platforms you allow your child to use so you understand how the platform works and insist that they have you as a friend on their profile so you know what they are posting online
- Remind them of the 'safe@stjosephs' button on the VLE where any concerns from the VLE can be reported
- Make sure your child understands the following basic E-safety rules that they have learnt about at school:
 - Always keep your profile as private as possible
 - If possible, don't put in your full name, e.g. Bart S, instead of Bart Simpson
 - Never accept friends you don't know in real life
 - Never post anything – writing or images – which could reveal your full name, where you live/go to school
 - Never post anything abusive or offensive
 - Never agree to meet somebody you only know online
 - Always tell your parent/carer if you feel threatened or someone upsets you

We also recommend that all parents/carers visit the CEOP Think U Know website for more information on keeping your child safe online: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

We appreciate your support in ensuring that all our students are safe and appropriate in their online interactions outside of school, so they can feel safe and happy in school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Catherine Walker
Headteacher

