

October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Social Media use outside of school

We are writing to advise you of a few concerns that we have regarding pupil's use of social media outside of school during evenings and weekends. This is then being continued within the school.

There are several groups of pupils using social media to be persistently unkind about other pupils over platforms such as Snapchat, WhatsApp and Discord.

We are asking for your support in what you allow your child access to and to be vigilant in what they are saying to other pupils. This can be by:

- Monitoring their phones for the apps that are downloaded
- Placing parental controls on phones and consoles
- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine
- Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing

As a school we are responding to this by holding assemblies, additional learning during form time around what is acceptable use on social media platforms, learning during personal development time and in 1:1 conversations and teaching opportunities as they arise. Where necessary we may involve our Community Police Officer.

Attached is also a useful guide on the settings and age ranges for various apps.

Thank you for your co-operation and support

Yours sincerely

Kate Beale, Headteacher

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



☰ → ⚙️ Settings → 🔒 Privacy




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

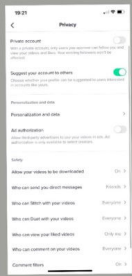
You can also restrict, block or report a user by clicking on their profile and selecting the three dots in the top right.

You can also remove a follower using this method.

Tiktok



👤 Me → ⋮ → 🔒 Privacy



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



⚙️ Settings → 👤 Account → 🔒 Privacy



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



👤 Profile → ⋮ → 🔒 My Location



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