



Dear Parents & Carers,

We write to you regarding the minimum age requirements for social media for children. The attached sheet sets out the minimum age requirements for popular social media platforms. The vast majority of them are not acceptable for primary school age children to access.

We spend a significant period of time educating our pupils about the importance of online safety and they are aware of the minimum age requirements for the various platforms. Despite this, we have today been presented with evidence that a large number of our Y6 pupils are accessing such platforms and have even created groups related to St. Philip's on them. Some of the messages viewed by our Senior Leadership Team are highly inappropriate and completely unacceptable.

Issues based around friendships relating to discussions on social media are very difficult for the school to investigate and offer guidance with because the children are too young to be allowed to use such platforms. Children do not yet have the level of maturity necessary to access most social media platforms. They find the decision making based around appropriate messaging difficult and can make some quite significant mistakes with their language and intentions.

We have spoken to pupils today regarding this. All children are aware they **should not** be using Snapchat. If your child has an account, we have today asked them to ensure they delete it at the earliest opportunity. We hope you will support our advice.

The reason most social media services use an age limit of 13 or over is in part because of a law in the USA. The COPPA law or [Children's Online Privacy Protection Act](#) states that any organisations or people operating online services (including social media services) are not allowed to collect the personal information of anyone under the age of 13 without parental permission.

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



Please can we ask you to read and be aware of the minimum ages for social media as indicated in the poster displayed above. Please help support your child and the school by ensuring they do not access such platforms. Additionally,

conversations at home around the permanence of written online content would be helpful. The advice given to us as a school is to pass any inappropriate social media activity onto our local Community Policing team. This is not a situation which we would like to have to encounter, so please try to spend some time discussing this letter with your child at home.

As always, thank you for your continued support,

Miss McNamara

Mr Cooper

Acting Headteacher

Assistant Headteacher