



Winscombe Primary School

Care, Aspire, Respect and Excel

3rd February 2025

RE: Social Media use

Dear Winscombe Families,

I am writing to address the growing need to increase awareness about the responsible use of social media among our pupils, and to encourage open communication between you and your child regarding their online activity.

Many pupils have reported to us that they are engaging with social media: WhatsApp, TikTok, YouTube, Roblox, Minecraft, SnapChat, Instagram and more. There are strict age restrictions for all of these platforms yet we know that children are still accessing them.

I have included some tips below for supporting a joined-up approach between pupils, parents, and teachers. In school we regularly pick up these issues as part of our Computing and PSHE curriculums.

If you don't already have <https://families.google/familylink/> you may wish to install this or similar on your devices, so that you can monitor and support your child's safe use of social media.

Key Points:

- **Monitoring and Awareness:**
As parents, it is crucial to be aware of the social media platforms your child uses, **who** they are connected with, the content they are sharing and **how** they are engaging with it. Regularly check their devices and have open conversations about their online behaviour.
- **Age Appropriateness:**
Ensure your child is using platforms that are age-appropriate and adhere to the terms of service regarding minimum age requirements.

- **Cyberbullying Concerns:**

Cyberbullying can have serious consequences, and we encourage you to talk to your child about the importance of respectful online conduct, reporting any instances of bullying they encounter.

- **Privacy Settings:**

Review privacy settings on social media accounts to limit who can see your child's personal information and posts.

- **Digital Footprint:**

Remind your child that anything posted online is PERMANENT (never goes away) and can be seen by others, including potential employers, and should be considered carefully.

- **Screen Time Management:**

Set healthy boundaries regarding screen time and encourage other activities that do not involve technology.

You can report any concerns and there is more information here:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/>

Other useful websites

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/social-media-3>

If you have any concerns about your child's social media use, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

We know that by working together, we can create a safe and positive online environment for our pupils, and teach them the skills they need to navigate the online world.

Yours Faithfully

Lorna Richardson

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