



St. Anne's C.E. (VC) Primary School

“Together with God, Making Learning a Life Long Friend”

We aspire to be guided in all that we do by our inclusive Christian ethos. We are enthusiastic about life-long learning and share wisdom in serving each other and our world. We encourage all to live lives of hope and aspiration, inspired through acquiring new skills and attributes. Dignity and respect are at the heart of our school.

29th April, 2022

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

RE : YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6 SOCIAL MEDIA PLAFORMS

Over the course of the year, we as a school have become increasingly concerned regarding some of the children in Year 5 and Year 6 using Social Media platforms on their mobile telephones. All of the social media platforms that the children are using have age guidance ratings **above** the age of a Year 6 pupil.

These can be found below:

- Snapchat 13+
- WhatsApp 16+
- Tik Tok 13+
- Instagram 13+
- Twitter 13+

We are particularly concerned about the children's use of Snapchat where 'snaps' (messages) are only displayed for 10 seconds before disappearing. In our experience we have found that some children are sending 'snaps' that they would never repeat verbally and these are causing distress to the receivers. More information on Snapchat can be found at the foot of this letter.

Moving forward, we would ask that you carefully monitor your child's use of social media and we, as a school, would urge you **to not allow** your child to access the social media platforms (particularly Snap Chat) because in our experiences we are finding that this platform is causing distress with a lot of children, which is being brought into school and affecting the children's well-being and education.

There is a wealth of social media platforms that are designed for children. Instead I would urge you to consider these platforms if you wish your child to access social media. These can be found here <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-networks-made-for-kids/>

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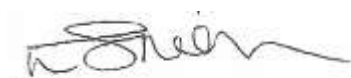
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More information regarding the social media platforms can be found on our school website at https://www.st-annes-brownedge.staffs.sch.uk/_files/ugd/cac643_e002c72442a847a8a6d1c1cd7b3b6844.pdf and there is also a wealth of further support for parents on these pages.

Being a parent in the digital age that we live in is not easy, nor is keeping up with the advances in social media and online. However, should you require support or advice, we as a school are more than willing to support where we can.

Kind regards,




Mr. E. Hobson
Headteacher

Snapchat

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is an app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time period e.g. 10 seconds. Users can also upload snaps to stories which then disappear after 24 hours.



What should I be aware of?

- **Who is your child friends with?** Talk to your child about who their 'friends' online are.
- **Group chats** - in a group chat there may be people that they're not friends with on the app who can then communicate with them in the group. This also increases their risk of interacting with strangers.
- **Snap Map** - The map lets users see where 'friends' are. Location sharing via the map is optional and is off by default (we recommend that it remains off).
- **Snapchat streaks** - Streaks count how many consecutive days two people have been sending Snaps to each other, this can increase pressure to respond daily.
- **Inappropriate content** - due to the nature of the app your child may come across content that is inappropriate.
- **Screenshots** - whilst Snaps disappear, users may take screenshots before they do, potentially resulting in them losing control of what they have shared as it could be sent to other people.
- **Bullying** - there is a risk of bullying on all platforms so please ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary.
 - <https://snap.com/safety/safety-reporting/>
 - <https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/a/remove-block-friends>

Safety tips

It is important to talk to your child regularly about what they are doing online and make sure that they know that they should always talk to you or another trusted adult if they have any concerns. **Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary.**

We would recommend you explore Snapchat with your child and suggest why certain options are safer, for example, setting your account so only friends (rather than everyone) can see your content and only those you are friends with can contact you.

- <https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/article/privacy-settings2>

Don't forget to talk to your child about **being kind online**, for example only posting positive comments, don't say anything they wouldn't say in real life and **treat others as they would expect to be treated.**

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