

14<sup>th</sup> April 2016



Dear Parents,

It has come to our attention over the last few months that a large number of children in Key Stage 2 are active on social networking sites, despite the age restrictions set by these sites themselves.

Obviously, it is the parents' decision as to whether or not children are allowed to sign up and access these networks, but recently a number of children have been concerned about the nature of the communication.

Can I encourage you to take some time to chat to your children about their phones, iPads, tablets and computers and ensure that they understand how to use their devices safely;

- Never give your name, address or any personal information
- Never provide your phone number or email address
- Never chat online with someone you do not know
- Never arrange to meet anyone you do not know
- Never post personal photographs

It is crucial that you monitor closely the content that is accessible and available to your children via their mobile devices, and encourage them to tell you if they see or hear anything untoward.

Recently, children have expressed concerns around apps such as Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Youtube and 'Talking Angela'. Please keep a close eye on the conversations your children are having, the photos they are sharing and the content they are viewing.

I have included a picture showing the age restrictions that are currently in place with a variety of online social networks and I've provided two internet links which you might be interested to read. I've provided these links on our new website too.

Yours sincerely,

M Beattie

Online articles:

- <https://www.common sense media.org/social-media/what-age-should-my-kids-be-before-i-let-them-use-instagram-facebook-and-other-social>

- <http://www.adweek.com/socialtimes/social-media-minimum-age/501920>

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

# Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

**13**

Twitter  
Facebook  
Instagram  
Pinterest  
Google+  
Tumblr  
Reddit  
Snapchat  
Secret

**14**

LinkedIn

**16**

WhatsApp

**17**

Vine  
Tinder

**18**

Path

**18 / 13 with parent's permission**

YouTube  
WeChat

Keek  
Kik

Foursquare  
Flickr

*Age specified in the platform's terms of service as of 09/2014.*

