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**Primary and Nursery School**

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## Social Media Apps Guide

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Following on from our recent Computing Assembly and continuous teaching of Internet Safety, please find below a guide on the most recent social media apps children are currently using and advice on how we can keep children safe whilst using them.

Social Media Apps Guide

| YouTube    Cost: Free  Minimum age: 13 | Instagram    Cost: Free  Minimum age: 13 |
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| Youtube is a social media platform that allows young people to not only watch video from their favourite YouTubers or vloggers but also share comments with each other about what they are watching.

 Advice: Consider downloading YouTube Kids or making your account private where you can decide who can view your videos. | Instagram is a photo sharing app that allows you to edit photos and videos, upload them and share them to other social networking sites. Photos and videos can be sent directly to friends.

Advice: Consider setting preferences to a private account. This still means other users can request to 'follow you'. Discuss with your child the importance of accepting only people they are friends with. |

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| **TikTok**      Cost: Free   Minimum age: 13<br><br>TikTok is a social networking app that allows users to create and share musical clips or short clips up to 60 seconds long.<br><br>Advice: Consider setting preferences to 'restricted mode' which limits inappropriate content or 'family pairing' which allows you to set limits. | **Telegram Messenger**<br> Cost: Free   Minimum age: 13<br><br>Telegram messenger is an app allowing users to send messages. Similar to WhatsApp, it encrypts messages and gives you the ability to delete messages.<br><br>Advice: Disable the 'Secret Chat' feature and ensure children know how to block and report users. |
| **Facebook**      Cost: Free   Minimum age: 13<br><br>Facebook allows you to share personal information, pictures, videos, chat and status updates with a network.<br><br>Advice: Facebook has settings that allow your page to be private, meaning only you and your friends who you accept can view your content and posts. Show and encourage your child to use the 'block' feature. | **Discord**      Cost: Free   Minimum age: 13<br><br>Discord is a free voice and text chat app that is often used by young people to communicate with others while gaming online and streaming live videos.<br><br>Advice: The 'Safe Direct Messaging' feature can automatically scan and delete direct messages containing explicit content. Privacy settings allow users to decide who can direct message them. |
| **Facebook Messenger**<br>Cost: Free   Minimum age: 13<br><br>Messenger connects with your Facebook account and can be used as a free messenger app to share photos, videos, audio and messages.<br><br>Advice: People who are not your friends are still able to send you a message and therefore, remind your child they should reject these messages when they are from people they do not know. | **Twitter**      Cost: Free   Minimum age: 13<br><br>Twitter allows you to share updates, post videos and view the updates or videos of other users including celebrities.<br><br>Advice: Consider setting the account to private, meaning only people who accept to 'follow you' can see your content. |

| Snapchat    Cost: Free  Minimum age: 13 | WhatsApp    Cost: Free  Minimum age: 16 |
|---|---|
| Snapchat is a photo-sharing app where users can send photos, messages or videos to their friends. Once sent, the video or photo will display on the receiver's screen for 10 seconds before being deleted.<br><br>Advice: Remind your child to only accept friend requests from people they know. If they do receive abuse or inappropriate content, the 'block' feature will stop the user from being able to contact them. | Free-of-charge, real-time messaging. You can share images and videos, take part in 'group chats' and share locations. You can only message someone if you already know their telephone number.<br><br>Advice: Be careful who you give your phone number and any other personal information to. |

As well as using settings and parental controls the different apps offer, please remember it is important to communicate with your child what they can do to keep safe. Discuss with your child what apps they are using regularly, any negative content they see and make them aware of how they can bloke or report inappropriate content.

**Helpful Links:**
Social media guide for parents | Snapchat, Facebook, TikTok, Instagram (cpdonline.co.uk)
Social Media Safety for Kids + Tips for Parents | Norton
UKCIS Social media guide for parents and carers - Internet Matters

If you require any assistance or advice on how to set up parental controls or change preferences, please contact the school office and we are more than happy to help.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Longland

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