



# BOLDMERE JUNIOR SCHOOL

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**Executive Head: Mr. C Glasgow**

**Head of School: Mrs. N Silverwood**

Website: [www.boldmereschools.bham.sch.uk](http://www.boldmereschools.bham.sch.uk)



***Our Vision: The Federation of Boldmere Schools empowers all children to embrace learning; achieve their personal best; and build their social, emotional and physical wellbeing.***



22 May 2019

Dear Year 5 and Year 6 Parents and Carers,

## **Ensuring the safe use of social media by our children**

As you know, Boldmere Junior School is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and social media, and through our school PHSE and ICT lessons we tackle the subject of e-safety and cyber bullying.

However, we have become aware of a level of activity by some children who have been making comments of an unpleasant nature to (and about) other Boldmere pupils, and putting themselves at risk.

We make every effort to educate the children about proper, and improper use of social media platforms. We are not able to address every issue that takes place out of school hours.

In order to maintain the online safety of the children of Boldmere Junior School, we believe it is vitally important that our school and parents and carers work together to raise awareness and increase understanding of the potential dangers in this area. **We, therefore, ask you to be extra vigilant of your child's use of social media.**

Some parents may not be aware that there are minimum legal ages that apply to these online platforms below:



- For **WhatsApp**, an instant messaging app, the legal age of access in the UK is 16.



- For **Snapchat**, a messaging app that enables users to exchange pictures and videos that disappear after they are viewed (but remain in the Snapchat database), the legal age of access is 13.



- For **Tik Tok**, a media app for creating and sharing short video films, the legal age for first use is 13.

PTO/



***This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment***



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- For Instagram, a photo and video sharing social network service, the legal age is 13.



- And for Facebook, the social networking website, the legal age of access is 16.

We feel it is important to point out to parents the risks of unregulated use of such sites in order for you to be able to make informed decisions as to whether to allow your child to have an account or not and when and how to monitor their use. Additional information about WhatsApp and other apps can be found at:

[www.netaware.org.uk/networks/whatsapp](http://www.netaware.org.uk/networks/whatsapp) and [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk).

We continue to appreciate all your support in this area as we endeavour to educate all pupils in the wonderful aspects and detrimental sides of technology in the hope that they will make the best choices as they grow.

### A reminder

Finally, we would like to remind parents and carers that the use of mobile phones and other mobile devices, such as tablets, during school hours is not allowed and should a child arrive with this technology, it must be checked in and out of the school office at the beginning and end of the day.

Once again, we thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Silverwood  
Head of School



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