



THE RICHARD CROSSE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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25th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Since returning to school we are increasingly concerned with the amount of conversations we are hearing from children regarding their unsupervised use of social media and age restricted apps. This is mainly within upper Key Stage 2 but it is essential that we are all aware of the risks. YouTube and TikTok (please see attached information sheet) are the websites and apps we are hearing about the most, with many of the children having personal mobile phones and the freedom to access the internet without adult supervision or monitoring.

Just to highlight the following apps and age restrictions from internetmatters.org:-

13 year olds and upwards



AskFm



BBM



Bebo



Facebook



Flickr



Foursquare



Google+



Habbo



Instagram



Kik



LinkedIn



TikTok



Reddit



Snapchat



Tumblr



Twitter



Vimeo



YouNow



YouTube



Yubo



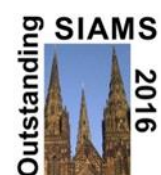
Houseparty



Monkey

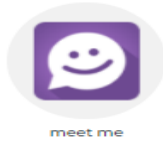


Whisper



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What are the risks of an underage social networking account?

- Many sites include an instant message function which allows private conversations between site members.
- Most social networking sites have an app version available, meaning your child will have access to the social network from their smartphone or tablet. Some app versions of social networks use the location of the phone.
- Information shared between friends can be easily copied and may spread
- It isn't easy to take back information that has been posted - and can be impossible if it's already been shared.
- Not everyone your child meets online will be who they say they are. Chatrooms and forums can connect people who are complete strangers and can be unmoderated
- Chatrooms and forums are one of the places online groomers go to connect with children. They can also be places where people use a lot of sexual language and engage in online flirting. This is sometimes done through video chat programs.

YouTube

Who may use the Service?

Age Requirements

You may use the Service if you are at least 13 years old.

Children of all ages may use YouTube Kids (where available) if enabled by a parent or legal guardian.

Permission by Parent or Guardian

If you are under 18, you must have your parent or legal guardian's permission to use the Service. Please have them read this Agreement with you.

If you are a parent or legal guardian of a user under the age of 18, by allowing your child to use the Service, you are subject to the terms of this Agreement and responsible for your child's activity on the Service. You can find tools and resources to help you manage your family's experience on YouTube in our [Help Center and through Google's Family Link](#)

For support setting up your child's device safely:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/e-safety-checklist-getting-your-kids-tech-devices-set-up-safe/>

For support on improving your parental controls:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

For age appropriate online safety advice:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/6-10/>

The digital world changes constantly; in the current climate we are all using technology more and more, so it is essential now, more than ever, that we all work together to keep our children safe from harm online.

If you have any concerns linked to your child's online use or would like support linked to e-safety, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Bowring', with a flourish at the end.

Ms E Bowring
Headteacher