



St. Michael's Church of England Primary School

Carlisle Road, Dalston, Carlisle, Cumbria CA5 7LN • Tel: 01228 711544 • Acting Headteacher: Mrs L Smith

Our school values: *Respect · Kindness · Challenge · Forgiveness · Perseverance*

Friday 4 March 2022

Dear Parents

Within school we take on-line safety very seriously. We want our pupils to access school devices and any personal devices at home responsibly and with a real awareness of the impact any communication they have or take part in can have. Keeping our children safe is of paramount importance.

Miss Rowe and myself led a shared talk with our Year 6 pupils about being safe on-line this afternoon. I have also arranged for Graham Kirkpatrick, our community police officer to come into school next Wednesday to deliver an on-line safety talk to all of our Year 6 pupils. I am aware that many of our Year 6 pupils have their own mobile phones and are accessing apps which do have age restrictions.

A recent on-line survey by CBBC showed that, of the children under 13 using social media without permission, 49 per cent were signed up to **Facebook**.

Twitter, the site where users post messages and tweets in 140 characters, says you must be at least "13 years old to use its services".

At first **Snapchat**, which allows people to post videos and photos for 10 seconds before they disappear, restricted anyone under the age of 13 from using their site. It then introduced a limited version of the app for under 13s - called **SnapKidz** - which allows photos and drawings but not sending messages. Users aged under 13 are redirected to **Snapkidz**.

The minimum age for the mobile phone messaging app **WhatsApp** is 16-years-old.

YouTube requires account holders to be aged 18 and over, and also restricts much of its content to over 18s, but it will also allow a 13-year-old to sign up with their parents' permission.

I would firmly advocate that all of our pupils are aware of these age restrictions and that any personal devices are closely monitored and checked to keep everyone safe and accessing on-line content in a healthy, responsible and acceptable manner. The link below gives further details to support you in keeping your child safe on-line.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-safety-guide-11-13-year-olds/>

If you have any queries about on-line safety or ways that we can help you to keep your child safe, please do not hesitate to contact either Miss Rowe or me.

Kind Regards

Mrs L Smith
Acting Headteacher