



15 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Encouraging Responsible Social Media Use Beyond School Hours

We are reaching out to share some insights regarding students' engagement with social media beyond regular school hours, including evenings, weekends, and half terms.

While students utilise platforms such as WhatsApp, Snapchat, TikTok and Instagram, we want to emphasise the importance of promoting positive behaviour in online interactions. Instances where unkind comments or inappropriate images are shared can inadvertently lead to discomfort amongst some students.

It is crucial to note that most social media applications are designed for users **aged 13 and above**. If you permit your daughter access to social media, we encourage you to stay vigilant. Similar to their face-to-face interactions, online activities benefit from supervision and support to ensure appropriateness.

To support you in creating a secure online environment, we suggest considering the following measures:

- Regularly check their phones for downloaded apps.
- Activate parental controls on phones and consoles.
- Consistently review the messages they send on various platforms, making monitoring a part of your daily or weekly routine.
- Set expectations concerning specific spaces and times when they have access to devices.
- Encourage open communication by discussing their online activities with them.

Whilst we acknowledge the advantages of digital communication, we aim to ensure that students are well-equipped with the knowledge to navigate the online world responsibly. Attached to this email, you will find a useful guide on settings for various apps.

Thank you for your co-operation and support in fostering a positive and respectful online environment for our students.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Delaney'.

Mr D Delaney
Assistant Headteacher

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Social Media Settings



Most social media apps are 13+ (WhatsApp is 16+) but - as we are aware some children are using them regularly - we wanted to share some important settings to keep children safe online.



Instagram



PRIVATE ACCOUNT: when this is on, only followers can see your posts and stories and you have to approve followers **(recommended: on)**

COMMENTS, TAGS, MENTIONS, STORY: allows you to control who can tag you, comment on your posts, mention you in their story and control your story audience

You can also restrict, block or report a user by clicking on their profile and selecting the three dots in the top right.

You can also remove a follower using this method.



Tiktok



PRIVATE ACCOUNT: when this is on, only followers can see your posts and you have to approve followers **(recommended: on)**

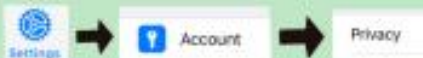
SAFETY: Tiktok has lots of options to restrict contact and interaction with video posts **(recommended: friends)**

COMMENT FILTERS: you can automatically hide comments that may have offensive words in **(recommended: on)**

You can also block, report or remove a follower by clicking on their profile and clicking the three dots in the top right hand corner.



WhatsApp



PROFILE PHOTO AND STATUS: You can change who can see a profile photo and status **(recommended: my contacts)**

GROUPS: allows you to stop a contact being able to add you to groups **(recommended for when a friend adds you without permission)**

BLOCKED: can add a contact to a blocked list so they can't message you.

You can also block or report a contact/number by clicking on the chat with them, clicking on their number/name at the top then scrolling down!



Snapchat



CONTACT: decide who can message you and send you snaps **(recommended: my friends)**

VIEW MY STORY: restrict who can see your story **(recommended: my friends)**

GHOST MODE: if this isn't on, contacts can see your location on a map **(recommended: on)**

You can also block or report a user by locating their contact, tapping and holding their name and clicking more